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REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

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OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland,

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING

IN BELFAST,

JUNE, 1689.

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1869.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

SESSION I.

BELFAST, MONDAY, 28TH JUNE, 1869—SEVEN O'CLOCK, P.M.

MET, THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND.

Constitution THE Moderator delivered a discourse founded on Rev. iii. 21—"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father in his throne"—and afterwards constituted the Court with prayer.

The following is the Roll of Ministers and Ruling Elders, viz.:—

Roll. THE REV. C. K. TOLAND, MODERATOR.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
John Hart.....	Robert M'Connell....	Ballylaggan.
.....	.....	Cloughmills.
James D. Houston....	Robert Nevin*	Coleraine.
James Brown.....	Hugh M'Caw.....	Dervock and B.money
James A. Smyth†	James Stewart*	Drimbolg.
Joseph Hamilton.....	.....	Garvagh.
James Dick, D.D....	John M'Fall*	Kellswater.
William Toland	Joseph Henry.....	Kilraughts.
.....	.....	Ringrash.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Thomas Dick.....	Samuel Graham.....	Bailliesmill.
Alexander Savage	Richard Hale.....	Ballenon.
Gawin Douglas	William Carson*....	Ballybay.
Hutchinson M'Fadden*	.....	Ballylane.
.....	John W. Hawthorne*	Dromore.
.....	.....	Dublin.
George Lillie*	.....	Fairview.
W. S. Ferguson*	.....	Grange.
.....	.....	Lisdonnan.
Samuel Simms*.....	.....	Loughbrickland.
.....	Robert M'Gladry*....	Newry.
Thomas Hart.....	Alexander Cromie....	Rathfriland.

EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

Roll.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
William Russell.....	Dr. Clugston*	Ballyclare.
Josias A. Chancellor..	Samuel Aikin	Belfast.
.....	Thomas Patterson*..	Killinchy.
Thomas Houston, D.D.	Samuel Carlile*	Knockbracken.
.....	.....	Larne.
John Newell, D.D.* ..	.....	Manchester.
Robert Allen.....	John Moore.....	Newtownards.

WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Charles K. Toland....	James Macintosh*...	Bready and Mulvin.
John W. Mackeown ..	John Elliot	Convoy and Donegal.
James P. Sweeny	Joseph Clarke.....	Faughan.
Robert Nevin.....	.....	Londonderry.
James Kennedy†	.....	Newtownlimavady.

I. The Rev. James Wallace, a brother from the United States of America, being present, and having laid on the table credentials signed by the Clerk of Synod of the United States, was cordially invited to sit and deliberate. Rev. James Wallace present.

II. The Rev. Thomas Dick was proposed as Moderator for the ensuing year by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Savage. The proposal was unanimously sustained by the Court, and Mr. Dick took the chair. Rev Thomas Dick chosen Moderator.

III. The hours of meeting were fixed to be from ten in the morning till three in the afternoon, and from seven in the evening till such time as may be found convenient or necessary. Hours of Meeting.

IV. Rev. W. Russell, Rev. C. K. Toland, and the Clerk were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures. They were also instructed to prepare an order of business and submit it to-morrow morning. Committee of Bills.

The Moderator concluded with prayer.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 29th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and was constituted with prayer.

The Rev. R. Allen conducted devotional exercises.

The following members of Court not present at the first Sederunt, appeared and took their seats, viz.:—Rev. Geo. Lillie; Rev. W. S. Ferguson; Rev. Dr. Newell; Mr. John M'Fall, Elder from Kellswater; Mr. Thos. Patterson, Elder from Killinchy; Mr. Samuel Carlile, Elder from Knockbracken; Mr. William Carson, Elder from Ballybay, Mr. Jas. Macintosh, Elder from Broady; Mr. Robt. M'Gladry, Elder from Newry; Mr. Robert Nevin, Elder from Coleraine; Mr. John W. Hawthorne, Elder from Dromore.

* Not present when the Court was constituted.
† Absent from all the Sessions.

V. The Committee of Bills submitted an order of business, which was approved.

VI. The Clerks of Presbyteries were appointed a Committee for drawing up a scale of Preachers' appointments—to report at a future Sederunt.

VII. Professor Dick, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Patterson, Elder, were appointed a Committee for inspecting the Records of Presbyteries—to report at a future Sederunt.

Committee on Causes of Thanksgiving and Fasting.

VIII. Mr. Savage and Mr. Douglas were appointed a Committee for drawing up a summary of Causes of Thanksgiving and Fasting—to be submitted to the Commission at its first meeting, for approval, and to be issued with its sanction.

Days appointed.

The last Thursday in November was appointed to be observed as the day of annual Thanksgiving; and the last Thursday in January, 1870, as the day of annual Fasting, with liberty to change on the part of those congregations which may find these days inconvenient.

Next Meeting of Synod

IX. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Belfast, on the Third Monday of June, 1870, at seven o'clock, p.m.

Publication Fund.

X. The Clerk of Synod reported, in regard to the Publication Fund, a balance on hand of £45 13s 7½d.

Magazine.

XI. The Editor of the Magazine reported that there were nearly *eleven hundred* subscribers, and that the payments were in general very good. It was not only self-sustaining, but after all demands in 1868 were met, there was a considerable surplus. This enabled the Editor to add *four* pages monthly this year to the size of it.

Code of Discipline.

XII. Dr. Houston, Mr. Chancellor, Dr. Dick, and Mr. Russell were appointed a Committee to prepare a Code of Discipline for the use of the Church—to be ready at next meeting of Synod—Dr. Houston, Convener.

Plan of Education for Students.

XIII. A revised Plan of Education for Candidates for the Ministry in the Church, which had been prepared by Synod's Committee having charge of the matter, and which had been printed and sent to ministers for consideration by order of the Commission, was read over paragraph by paragraph. Paragraph 12 was under consideration when the hour for adjournment arrived.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION III.

Tuesday, 29th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

The following members of court were present for the first time, and took their seats, viz.:—Rev. Hutchinson

M'Fadden; Mr. James Stewart, Elder from Drimbolg; Dr. Clugston, Elder from Ballyclare.

XIV. A copy of a letter which had been sent to the Synod of the United States of North America was read, as also a reply from that body which had come to hand. Foreign Correspondence

The correspondence was ordered to be published with the Minutes of Synod.

The Rev. James Wallace was requested from the chair to address the Court. This he did, giving some very interesting details of his labours in the National Reform movement in the United States, in which he had been especially engaged, and also of the work among the Freedmen of the South. Rev. James Wallace addresses the Court.

At the conclusion of his address the following motion was proposed by Dr. Houston, seconded by Dr. Dick, and passed unanimously; viz.:—

"The Synod has had special pleasure in receiving the Rev. James Wallace, a member of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in North America, as a consultative member, at its present meeting. They have heard with peculiar gratification the interesting statements made by him respecting the position and work of beloved brethren in America; and in particular, the clear and satisfactory account which he has given of important movements for effecting amendments in the constitution of the United States' government. Regarding these movements, conducted as they are by men of Christian principle and spirit in the different Evangelical bodies in America, as tending to remove great fundamental evils from the national government in America, and to bring the constitution into nearer conformity with the infallible standard of God's word, and having all confidence that brethren in America who take an active part in this work will so advocate it that the grand articles of a Covenanted Testimony will be faithfully maintained, we affectionately bid Mr. Wallace, and those who co-operate with him, all success in their arduous and honourable undertaking, expressing at the same time their earnest desire that his visit to our country may prove of signal benefit to himself and to us, and that, on his return to America, he may be spared and strengthened for further labours, and may be privileged to reap plentiful precious fruits of his self-denying and devoted exertions."

The motion was conveyed to Mr. Wallace from the chair in suitable terms.

XV. A Report on Temperance was read by the Secretary of the Temperance Association in connection with the Synod. The Report was received with approbation, and ordered to be published in the Magazine. Report on Temperance

The following is the Report:—

Report on Temperance, June, 1869.

The Report of last year, which gave a resume of the action of this Church with regard to the Temperance Reformation from the earliest date, was published in the Magazine in the month of November. In addition to its appearance in the

pages of *The Covenanter*, a thousand copies were struck off separately for free circulation throughout the Church. On the 23rd of January in the present year this Report was published entire in the *Alliance News*, the organ of the United Kingdom Alliance. The principal portions of it were also reprinted in the *Scottish Temperance League Journal*, with many laudatory remarks as to the advanced position which has been so early taken and so honourably maintained by this Church, before the other Churches of the kingdom, with regard to drinking and the drink traffic.

Action of Presbyteries

Nothing worthy of special notice has occurred during the past year in the advocacy and promotion of this cause within our own bounds. The Eastern Presbytery held a brief conference on the subject, and fixed upon a Sabbath on which the ministers were directed to make Intemperance the principal theme of their discourse. At the following meeting of Presbytery it was found that this arrangement had been carried out. And not only did the people manifest a deep interest in the Scriptural discussion of the question, but the ministers individually testified that their own interest in the subject, and sense of its great importance and urgency at the present time, had been deepened and intensified by the renewed and solemn consideration which they were thus required to give it. We have not yet received formal Reports from the other Presbyteries. But we have reason to believe that the suggestions and recommendations of last Synod have not been overlooked, that it will be found that the attention of the people has been called to this subject more or less fully from all our pulpits, and that the work of organizing Congregational Associations is steadily progressing towards completion.

Effect of Drinking Customs on Churches.

In our last Report the special attention of the Church was called to the direct and fearful ravages which Intoxicating Drinks are constantly making in the membership of all Christian Churches in these lands. There can be no stronger reason than this why congregations should be earnestly called upon to organize and agitate, and by every legitimate means endeavour to train up the young in habits of Total Abstinence, and if possible to rescue and protect the more exposed from the awful danger of falling into habits of intoxication. It is also the most powerful reason why the responsible Officers and Courts of the Church should incessantly raise their warning cry and testimony against this evil, and take such measures as are best calculated to drive the demon of Intemperance, with all the lesser but most mischievous and dangerous demons that labour so assiduously in his service, entirely beyond their bounds. We stated the average loss to

the Church from this cause to be about one member to each congregation in the year. In our congregations the average is not even so great as this. Many years may elapse in some congregations without any one falling away or being cast off by discipline from this cause. But there is no congregation that cannot look back with deep regret, if not with shame, to the removal of persons from their communion who had been useful and influential, and who promised still greater usefulness in the future, from the stealthy and insidious inroads, and at length the terrible power of the common drinking customs of respectable society. We find that the average above stated is considered by other Churches much too low. The following extract from the Report on Temperance presented to the recent meeting of the Free Church Assembly shows that the subject is there considered in the same light, and the Church is roused thereby to take direct and energetic steps for the more effectual repression of intemperance:—

"With regard to the practical question, What are the causes of intemperance, and what can be done to mitigate the evils of it? we shall first ask, What can be done by direct action on the part of the Church itself? Doubtless the chief end of the Church is the conversion of souls; but she has many subordinate ends. Her mission is certainly to form and lead opinion on moral as well as strictly religious subjects. The evil of drinking is costing her, on the average of congregations, probably more than two or three members a year, lost either by direct drunkenness or by the poverty and carelessness consequent on drinking—perhaps not less, to the Churches in Scotland, upon the whole, than 1000 members per annum. And one real point, not understood, is the evil of habitual and unnecessary drinking, of tippling and free indulgence, which is the parent of intemperance, and without which there would be little or no drunkenness."

Effect of Drunkenness on Missions.

Another fact well calculated to excite the Churches of Christ to anxiety and effort upon this subject is that Intemperance is not merely weakening congregations and impeding and counteracting the general success of religion at home, but it is raising everywhere the most insuperable obstacles in the way of its introduction and extension abroad. Sir John Bowring, who is familiar, from personal intercourse with the condition of every part of the British Empire, traces the existence of drunkenness almost exclusively to Christian lands, and to professedly Christian agencies. He says, "One reflection I can scarcely avoid making, in dwelling on the causes of offence among the Hindoo, Buddhist, and Mahometan subjects, and that is the general absence of intemperance—intemperance which may be called specially the Christian vice. While engaged in studying the history of the origin and consequences of crime among us, it is im-

possible not to be struck with the fearful influence of drunkenness, and with the multitudinous offences traceable to this fount and origin of mischief." Captain Burton, in his book on Abeokuta, although he is no friend either to Total Abstinence or to Christian Missions, is constrained by the ravages of rum which he had witnessed there to declare —"It is my sincere belief that if the slave export trade were revived with all its horrors, and that rum and gunpowder were things unknown, the country would greatly gain in happiness by the exchange." The Custom returns of 1866 show that over 1,200,000 gallons of spirits were sent out by Christian British merchants to the west coast of Africa. The influence of this in increasing the brutality of the people and in preventing the success of every Christian and philanthropic enterprise may be easily conceived. The following is the melancholy testimony of a resident missionary on the subject, and similar testimonies might be gleaned from almost every heathen land :—

"When we speak against rum sometimes, the natives say:—'You white men bring rum. We haven't rum in our country. Why do you tell us not to drink it when you bring it?' Then when we say we missionaries do not bring it and do not use it, they say, 'But you have wine and beer; if you would let us have wine, we would not drink rum.' How thankful have I been to be able to reply, 'No, I do not drink either wine, or brandy, or beer,' thus washing my hands of all part in introducing to other lands the intemperance of our own. It is a marvel that merchants occupying positions of respectability at home should be satisfied with deriving large gains from a trade which is the greatest obstacle to mission work abroad, and which curses and demoralises more and more the most barbarous peoples of the earth. It is not missionaries only who bear this testimony; even those who trade in the rum will admit that it curses the people to whom they take it, as I have witnessed on the coast of Africa white men in *delirium tremens*, young, well-educated, promising men become the slaves to intemperance; white men and black brought to an early grave by hard drinking, men and women frightfully cut and hacked by their drunken friends or husbands, natives roaming about the towns like madmen, threatening to kill any one, friend or foe, who came in their way; native converts ruined from the love of rum, and little infants brought to the mission houses because they are dying, poisoned by the rum given them by their parents. As I have reviewed these things, I have vowed once and again not to touch the accursed thing, but with all my soul and strength to do what might lie in my power to discountenance its traffic and use."

Home Efforts. It is very gratifying to observe and to be able, in this public manner, to acknowledge that there is every year such an increased measure of attention and effort brought to bear on this crying and enormous evil, as gives promise, at no very distant time, of its subjugation and entire removal. The statistics of the tremendous cost and multitudinous operations of the drink traffic, and of the devastating and deadly results

that are continually flowing from it, are carefully prepared from year to year, and widely published, until the public mind is gradually coming to be horrified and appalled beyond expression at the magnitude of the evil. Above 100 millions of money are spent every year in the purchase of intoxicating drinks. The loss of not less than another 100 millions is entailed upon the nation, directly or indirectly, from the use of these poisonous drinks. The accumulation of these sums would, in four years, wipe out the entire National Debt of Britain, the interest of which swallows up about one-half of our annual taxation. The numerous Missionary, Educational, and Beneficent Societies of Great Britain, which held their annual meetings during the month of May last, could only show a sum total of contributions from all sources of less than a million and a-half. If every shilling that is given for such purposes throughout the realm were computed, the amount would fall considerably short of two millions of money in the year. TWO MILLIONS for the cause of Christ and humanity, and TWO HUNDRED MILLIONS expended upon or destroyed by the traffic in intoxicating drinks! We need not be astonished after this to learn that in so rich and industrious a country as Scotland every tenth person is a pauper, and in England every twentieth; or to know that one-fourth part of the inhabitants of these countries are most insufficiently fed, clothed, and housed—many of them, indeed, in the most shameful condition of destitution, wretchedness, and filth. Ninety out of every hundred that fill our workhouses and sink beneath the evils that spring from destitution are the victims of intemperance. A distinguished German has recently expressed his astonishment at the state of matters in these privileged lands, as contrasted with his own, in the following words :—

Cost of Drinking.

Effect on social character and position.

"I am amazed at the magnificence of your country, at its intelligence, wealth, and philanthropy; I am amazed at the ability, eloquence, and learning of your clergy, and at the position they occupy, so superior to that of the clergy in my country; but I am still more amazed at the dreadful amount of drunkenness and poverty which pervade the land. The poorest artisan and labourer in Germany is able to lay by enough for a rainy season, and in manhood can make provision for old age. Yet your mechanics and artisans, earning more wages, look to the poorhouse as their destination, and spend in sensual indulgence that which my countrymen find sufficient for future needs."

Such facts as these, when fairly considered, must prove the necessity for instant and thorough reform to every honest and impartial mind. Through every rank and class in the community the eloquence and argument of these astounding facts are forcing their way, and leading to earnest

thought, and increasing agitation. No Christian Church could retain its place in the present day and remain indifferent to the terrible presence and power of intemperance in the land. Even on patriotic and benevolent grounds, or on grounds of self-interest and protection, many have been forced to bestir themselves and to raise their protest against it. How much more should those be found exerting themselves to the utmost, and giving the trumpet no feeble or uncertain sound, whose souls should be moved to their very depths by a supreme regard to the Will of God as clearly enunciated in his Word, and by the all-constraining motive of love to Christ and to the immortal interests and souls of men! The Churches seem at length to be vieing with each other in denouncing the complicated evils of the spirit trade, and in favouring measures, political or ecclesiastical, for its restriction or removal. There is scarcely a Church Court or Ministerial or religious Conference in the land that has not identified itself with this cause, and that has not an organized agency for watching the progress of the Temperance movement, and for concentrating, at any time, its influence and resources on its behalf. Some of these have laboured most ardently and successfully in unveiling the hidden abominations and terrible power of the Drink system, and in rousing and directing the force of public opinion against it. Passing without mention the various Presbyterian and other Evangelical Dissenting bodies that might be expected to take a prominent part in this agitation, the Church of Rome has, for many years, distinguished itself in contending powerfully for the reduction or overthrow of the liquor traffic. Some of her highest dignitaries have thrown themselves heartily and earnestly into the strife, and laboured to secure a proper issue. But by far the most important event of this kind, during the past year, has been the action taken by an important section of the Episcopal Church in England. The Convocation of Canterbury, comprising 32 English counties, with North and South Wales, and a population of between 14 and 15 millions, had appointed a Committee "To consider and report on the prevalence of intemperance, the evils which result therefrom, and the remedies which may be applied." The result of the labours of this Committee has been published in a volume of 288 pages, containing the testimonies of the clergy, judges, police magistrates, recorders and coroners of England and Wales, the superintendents of lunatic asylums, the governors and chaplains of prisons, heads of the Constabulary, and masters of workhouses, on the extent, the causes, and the

Church Efforts.

Action of Convocation of Canterbury.

remedies of intemperance. On the first of these points this important document declares—

The vice spreading among some classes.

"That it appears to your committee from the evidence collected from all parts of the country, and now lying before them, that while the evil of social intemperance has of late years greatly diminished in the upper and middle ranks of society, no proportionate improvement has taken place amongst the labouring classes of our people; on the contrary, that drinking prevails amongst them in our commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural districts, to a frightful extent, and this notwithstanding the multiplied efforts of religion and philanthropy, and the many agencies employed during the last quarter of a century to counteract this baneful habit. It would also appear that the vice of intemperance is not confined to the male population, or to persons of mature age, but is spreading to an alarming degree among women and the young. Indeed it appears that in many parts of the country the evil begins at the earliest age, and that youths and children may be found amongst its victims; and thus the physical, moral, and spiritual life of our people becomes infected at its source."

In adopting this Report, the Convocation passed a resolution to present her Majesty with an address deploring the many evils connected with intemperance, which are set forth in the report, and praying her Majesty to direct the attention of both houses of parliament to the same, with the view to the enactment of measures which may remedy or prevent those evils, and thereby promote the happiness and welfare of the people. The publication of this report will mark a new era in the history of the Temperance cause. A copy of it, with other interesting papers, will be presented to each member of Synod.

Permissive Bill.

A Bill for the gradual suppression of the drink traffic, as the people may be prepared to demand it, has been for some years before the country under the auspices of the United Kingdom Alliance. It is characterized by great simplicity and fairness, and if once passed into law would give to each portion of the country the power, under certain conditions, of protecting itself against the dangerous presence and influence of the public house. The Bill, in its preamble, sets forth that—

"Whereas, the common sale of intoxicating liquors is a fruitful source of crime, immorality, pauperism, disease, insanity, and premature death, whereby not only the individuals themselves who give way to drinking habits are plunged into misery, but grievous wrong is done to the persons and property of her Majesty's subjects at large, and the public rates and taxes are greatly augmented; and, whereas, it is right and expedient to confer upon the ratepayers of cities, boroughs, parishes, and townships the power to prohibit such common sale aforesaid—Be it therefore enacted, &c."

This Permissive Prohibitory Bill provides that, on the request of a number of the householders in a district, to the chief officer of the parish or district, the votes of the rate-

payers shall be taken as to the propriety of adopting the provisions of the act; but that a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes taken shall be necessary in order to decide that question in the affirmative. The act itself would, when once adopted, prohibit within that district all traffic in intoxicating liquor for common purposes. This Bill was brought before Parliament during the present Session, for the second time. And although it did not pass the second reading, yet it received a much larger and more earnest support than on the previous occasion, showing a rapid and satisfactory growth of public opinion in favour of such a measure. A majority of the Irish members who voted were supporters of the Bill: and of the thirteen votes from Ulster, twelve were in its favour. The continuance of the temperance agitation will no doubt, in time, be rewarded by some such necessary measure as this; and the Government that now Licenses, and thereby encourages and establishes this ruinous and deadly traffic, will be constrained to yield to the sober and religious portion of the community the right of restraining or of removing altogether its noxious presence from their midst.

Practical Suggestions.

In conclusion, we would suggest—

1.—That Presbyteries be instructed, at their autumnal meetings, to take this whole subject into their earnest consideration, with the view of adopting such measures as may be required for the resuscitation and advancement of this cause within their bounds, and to report their progress at next meeting of Synod.

2.—That ministers be instructed to preach upon the subject on or about the third Sabbath of December, and that an ordinary collection on that Sabbath be dedicated and sent to the Secretary for the promotion of this cause.

3.—That Congregations be recommended to continue the work of organising local Associations until a Temperance Society shall be found in active operation in connection with each Congregation.

4.—That the members of the Church, and especially the young, be solemnly warned of the danger of yielding in the least to the prevailing drinking customs of the day, and be earnestly and affectionately entreated to come out and be separate from them, and touch not the unclean thing, and to expend their influence and means, in their several places and circumstances, in promoting right views and encouraging to right action on behalf of this great and important work, if thereby they may help, by the blessing of God, in rescuing the intemperate, in preserving those who are in danger of

falling into the snare of the devil, and in aiding the general movement which shall yet culminate in the removal of drunkenness and the drink traffic for ever from the land.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 30th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

The Court met and was constituted with prayer.

The Rev. James Wallace conducted devotional exercises.

The Rev. Samuel Simms, who had not appeared previously, was present, and took his seat.

Plan of Education for Students adopted.

XVI. The Plan of Education for Candidates for the Ministry was taken up at the point where it had been left at the hour of adjournment yesterday. The remaining paragraphs were read and examined seriatim. The whole having been thus considered, and some changes made upon it, it was moved by Dr. Dick, and seconded by the Rev. W. Toland, that the Plan, as now amended, be adopted as The Plan of Education for the Students of this Church.

The motion passed unanimously.

The following is the

PLAN OF EDUCATION:

Introductory.

1.—As faithful and efficient Ministers are the ascension gifts of the Saviour to His church, it is the duty of her office-bearers and members to pray frequently and fervently, that the "Lord of the harvest" would "send forth labourers into His harvest;" and Ministers especially should exercise vigilance in endeavouring to find out young persons in their congregations possessing such mental and moral endowments as appear suited to the work of the ministry—in encouraging parents to devote them to the work, and to give them a suitable elementary education—and in superintending and directing their studies.

2.—Such youths shall be directed by their pastors, or the session of the congregation to which they belong, to cultivate a scientific knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures, and of the standards of the church, and to manifest a readiness for works of practical piety. Those alone shall be encouraged to study for the ministry who afford satisfaction in these particulars.

Preparatory to Entering College.

3.—Before entering College, they shall be required to study correctly the principles of the English language; and to become acquainted with History, Geography, and Mathematics. In studying the elements of the Latin and Greek Classics, they shall follow the course pursued in the most ap-

proved public seminaries, and chiefly such as will enable them to pass with honour the Matriculation examination of the Queen's Colleges, and to acquire a critical and extensive knowledge of the Original of the New Testament. At the same time, they shall attend to the study of Chronology, Ancient and Modern History, Antiquities, and Ancient Geography.

4.—In order to judge of the fitness of students for entering College, each Presbytery, at its meeting held immediately before the opening of the Collegiate session, shall devote a portion of the diet to the examination of the Students under its care. This examination shall embrace all the parts of preparatory study, and likewise a knowledge of the Scriptures, and of our subordinate Standards.

Course at College.

5.—Students, designed for the ministry, are required, on entering College—whether the Queen's Colleges or Magee College in this country, or the Universities in Scotland—to *Matriculate*, and afterwards to retain their standing as regular students, and to pass all College examinations, with the view of graduating when they shall have completed their course.

6.—The COURSE AT COLLEGE shall be, at least, THREE COMPLETE SESSIONS; and shall comprise the usual branches in Literature, Science, and Philosophy, which are required for graduation—namely, English Literature, Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Logic, Metaphysics, Natural Philosophy, Natural History, and Chemistry. The order in which these subjects are studied at College will be regulated according to the course followed at the particular College or University which the Student attends.

7.—Students who have attended College, shall give an account to the Presbytery of the subjects which they have studied, on any or all of which they may be required to undergo an examination by the Presbytery, and they shall submit for inspection their certificates from Professors, and receive directions relative to a course of reading, during the College vacations. Before returning to College, they shall be examined on the subjects studied, and the exercises performed during vacation, and be directed relative to the studies of the approaching Session at College. It shall be the duty of Presbytery to remand the Student to the farther study of any branch on which he may be found deficient.

8.—As the Undergraduate course at the Queen's Colleges embraces an acquaintance with some modern languages, besides English, Students who attend other Colleges are enjoined to seek the acquisition of such knowledge in con-

nexion with their collegiate studies. It is desirable also that, during some part of their course, attention should be paid to the study of Political Economy and Jurisprudence.

Entrance on Theology.

9.—Students before being admitted to the Theological Hall shall submit to their respective Presbyteries their College Certificates, showing that they have studied at College the whole Undergraduate course; and they shall be examined by the Presbytery on their knowledge of the Scriptures, and of the Standards of the Church. Should the Student not have previously placed himself under the Presbytery's inspection, he must undergo an examination equivalent to that which he would have passed in case he had been taken under the care of Presbytery previously to entering College, before he can be received at the Theological Hall. Students of Theology are required to be members of the church in full standing; and it is desirable that the Presbytery, on examining and certifying the Student to the Theological Hall, prescribe a HOMILY, to be delivered soon after the opening of the Session of the Hall.

10.—An acquaintance with the elements of Hebrew Grammar shall be deemed indispensable to Students entering the Theological Hall; and it is recommended to Students to attend a regular Hebrew Class during the first Session of the Hall. The study also of the Irish Language and Literature is recommended to Students for the ministry in this Church.

11.—Attendance upon an Elocution Class, for at least two Sessions, during the period of their attending their College course, or the Theological Hall, will be henceforth required of all the Students.

Theological Course.

12.—The STUDIES IN THE THEOLOGICAL COURSE shall embrace Systematic and Polemic Theology, Ecclesiastical History, Biblical Criticism, Scriptural Exegesis, Pastoral Theology, and Moral Philosophy—and shall extend throughout THREE SESSIONS of *four* months each, beginning in November.

13.—While the studies of the Theological Students will be fully conducted by the Theological Professors, under the direction and control of the Committee of Superintendence appointed by Synod, the respective Presbyteries may render essential help in this matter. They should receive the certificates of the Professors from the Students who attend the Hall, inspect the exercises which they have prepared, and examine them upon the parts of the system of Theology which they have studied. The Discourses and Essays of Students of Theology shall be delivered or read publicly in Presbytery. Presbyteries should not allow Discourses to be

read by Theological Students, or candidates for License, which according to the usage of the Church, are to be delivered *memoriter*.

14.—Students designed for the ministry, while attending College or the Theological Hall, are required to bring with them a certificate of church-membership, to present to the Minister and Session of the Congregation in whose bounds they reside, for the time; and such Minister and Session are to consider themselves charged to take cognizance of the attendance of Students on public and social ordinances, and of their general deportment, and on their return to certify them accordingly.

15.—The following Exercises shall be publicly delivered by the Theological Students, in the different Sessions of the Hall:—

First Session—Homily and Lecture.

Second Session—Exegesis on a passage of Hebrew Bible, and the same on a passage of the Greek Testament, with an exposition on a portion of the Psalms, and either a Sermon or a Lecture.

Third Session—A popular Sermon and a Lecture, and an Essay on some of the Distinctive Principles of the church's Testimony.

Trials for License.

16.—Instead of the Final Synodical examination, which has been hitherto required to be submitted to by Students, after the completion of their Collegiate and Theological courses,—they shall submit to the Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall the evidence of having attended fully to the whole course of prescribed study. They may be examined on any subjects contained in it that the Committee deem necessary. A testimonial of the Committee's approval and a degree in Arts shall be required to be presented to the Presbytery, previous to receiving last trials for License.

17.—That Students who have completed the course of Theological study, may obtain License to preach the Gospel, without undue delay, Presbyteries are recommended to receive from them in the interval, between one Session of the Hall and another, as judicial exercises for License, the same or similar pieces of trial, as they have already given in at the Hall, so that when the last of these shall have been delivered in Presbytery, they may, if approved, be sent forth to the public service of the church.

18.—Ministers, under whose care Students designed for the ministry are regularly placed, should aim to excite and encourage them in the ways of godliness: it is, therefore, re-

commended that such students be led to assist in Sabbath Schools, to visit the sick and neglected, to engage in works of general Christian benevolence, and to cultivate a personal acquaintance with other important parts of the working of the Pastorate.

19.—Such Students as may have commenced their studies, without any special view to the ministry; and those who accede to the Reformed Presbyterian Church from other sections of the church, may be admitted as candidates for the ministry, if, on examination, they are found qualified to rank with Students of this church of the same standing.

It was further proposed by Mr. Chancellor:—

Students of one year past, to attend two Sessions—of two years, to attend one.

"That, as the change in the course of Theology, introduced by the Revised Plan of Education just adopted, will affect students who have commenced their Theological course, it is ruled that those who have attended one Session may complete their course for license by two additional Sessions, and those who have attended two by one Session at the Hall."

This also passed *nem. diss.*

XVII. Dr. Newell, Rev. W. Toland, and Mr. Joseph Clarke were appointed a Committee to consider what changes on the financial arrangements of the Hall may be necessitated by putting the Revised Plan of Education for Students into present operation. To report at a future Sederunt.

A. M. Fund.

XVIII. The Treasurer of the Aged Ministers' Fund reported that, after paying £30 for the year to one beneficiary, and meeting incidental expenses, there remained a balance on hand of £209 10s 7d.

Trust Deed.

XIX. A Committee, appointed in *interlocutor* last year for the purpose, presented a report respecting the capitalized funds of the Church—the opinion of counsel consulted by them regarding the propriety and necessity of a Trust Deed—and submitted the Draft of a Trust Deed for the consideration of Synod.

Synod resolved that there should be a Trust Deed.

Trustees appointed.

The following were formally appointed Trustees under the Trust Deed to be drawn out, their consent to act having been severally obtained—viz.:

Rev. J. A. CHANCELLOR, *Convener.*

CHAS. HURST, Esq., M.D.,	Mr. SAMUEL CLUGSTON,
Mr. JAMES MEHARG.	Mr. JOSEPH CLARKE.

Committee on Rules for Funds, appointed.

XX. In reference to Minute XXXIV. of last meeting, appointing the Rev. W. Toland and Rev. J. Kennedy to revise the suggested rules of Distribution of the Aged Ministers' Fund (See Min. XXXVI. of 1867), as, owing to the absence

of one member of Committee the report was not fully matured; it was ordered that this Committee be re-appointed, with the addition of Dr. Dick—Rev. W. Toland, Convener—to report to the Commission at its first meeting a complete statement of the constitution and laws of the Aged Ministers' Fund; likewise with regard to the Bicentenary Fund, the Education Fund, the Australian Mission Fund, Morrow's Legacy, and any other Fund that may be committed for investment to the Trustees of the Church; to be duly matured and presented to next Synod.

Scottish Deputation.

XXI. An extract Minute of the proceedings of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland was laid on the table, from which it appeared that the Rev. Torrens Boyd and Mr. John Blair, Ruling Elder, were appointed a deputation to the present meeting.

Both of these gentlemen were present, and took seats in Court.

Banns of Marriage.

XXII. The consideration of the motion for the discontinuance of proclamation of banns of marriage was held over another year for want of time.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION V.

Wednesday, 30th June, Seven o'clock p.m.

Devotional Exercises and Addresses on Practical Subjects.

Synod met, and was constituted with prayer.

This Session had been set apart in the order of business for devotional exercises and addresses on practical subjects.

The Moderator first called upon the Rev. Torrens Boyd to engage in prayer.

Mr. Russell spoke on *Co-operation.*

Dr. Houston, on *Seeking the Conversion of Souls.*

Mr. Savage, on *The Training and Employment of the Young.*

Mr. Ferguson, on *Society-keeping.*

Mr. Chancellor, on *Principle and Practice.*

Dr. Dick, on *Testimony-bearing.*

Mr. Wallace, on *Systematic Giving.*

The addresses on these subjects were intermingled with exercises of praise and prayer.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VI.

Thursday Morning, 1st July.

Synod met and was constituted with prayer.

The Rev. W. Russell conducted devotional exercises.

Report of Home Mission.

XXIII. The Secretary of the Home Mission read the Annual Report. It was moved by Mr. Aikin, seconded by Rev. W. Toland, and passed *nem. con.*, that it be adopted and published with the Minutes of Synod.

The following is the Report:—

REPORT OF THE HOME MISSION AND MINISTERIAL SUPPORT SCHEME FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1869.

The Commission, in laying the Report of last year's proceedings before Synod, have no material changes, affecting the arrangements or condition of this scheme, to record. The Mission Stations have received the amount of their usual grants, and been supplied, as heretofore, with preaching, the dispensation of sacraments, and Pastoral oversight, by their respective Presbyteries. The Mission Congregations continue unaltered, so far as their relationship to this scheme is concerned. Killinchy has asked for a renewed grant, as large as the rules of the Synod will allow, that they may be able to proceed to the election of a minister.

Aid to Stations.

During the year collections have been sent in to this Fund from all the congregations. In some instances the collections have been larger than those of former years; and on the whole they have not fallen below the average of the past.

Collections.

For many years in succession the aid-receiving congregations have been urged to form Juvenile Missionary Associations, in order to increase their funds, and to assist and encourage the Church in maintaining and extending this Mission. As Synod's suggestions and recommendations led, in most cases, to no practical result, the following Resolution was adopted at our last meeting:—"That aid-receiving congregations be required to organise and employ their young persons in raising funds for the Missions of the Church, and Presbyteries are hereby instructed to give them all assistance in this matter, and to see that it be carried into effect." We are not in circumstances fully to report what attention has been given to this matter either by Presbyteries or Congregations. But Synod can ascertain this directly either from the Reports of Presbyteries, or from the representatives of Congregations. Ballyclare has made a special and spirited effort by which the average of their former contributions has been more than doubled for the pre-

Congregational Associations.

Congregational Associations.

sent year. But whether this effort is to be renewed from year to year, or placed on some permanent footing, we have not been informed. Garvagh originated a Juvenile Missionary Association very soon after the settlement of its present pastor; and Bailiesmill has doubled its wonted contributions by a similar agency. Grange has increased on a like proportion, but by what means we have not heard. The only other Congregations in which Missionary Associations have been organised are Knockbracken, Belfast, Newtownards, Ballyclabber, Bready, Convoy and Manchester. From some of these Associations no returns have been reported of late. Where they are kept in active operation they form a useful centre of beneficence for the young, and contribute materially to the sustentation of all the Missions of the Church. We are persuaded that if this Synod could secure the introduction of some such organization into every Congregation it would not only tend to promote a healthful spirit of active piety and love of the Church among the young of our flocks, but it would furnish ample funds for the advancement of Ministerial support in Mission Congregations at home, and for the support of as many agents as we would be enabled to obtain for the work of the Lord in a foreign field.

Ministerial Support.

On the general subject of the support of the Ministry, the following Resolutions were adopted at last Synod:—

"1. That not the aid-receiving Congregations alone, but all the Congregations of this Church, should contribute at the rate of 10s per member for the support of the Ministry; and that Presbyteries be required, with as little delay as possible, to have this rule explained to the Congregations under their care, and to use all proper means to have it in every case realized.

"2. Ministers are enjoined to preach frequently and faithfully to their people the duty and privilege of giving for the cause of Christ, and especially of contributing on the first day of the week, as an act of public thanksgiving to God, according as the Lord hath prospered them.

"3. That in no case shall Presbyteries proceed to the Ordination or Induction of a Minister over a self-supporting Congregation on a lower stipend than £100 in the year.

"4. That Presbyteries be instructed to use their influence in having a Manse secured, if possible, in every Congregation in the Church."

To put measures in train for giving immediate effect to these resolutions, it was further resolved—

"That the Commission, at its meeting in October next, be enjoined to take into special consideration measures for carrying out the resolutions contained in this Report; and the Presbyteries are hereby earnestly enjoined to adopt and carry into practical effect the same resolutions in their respective bounds, in the expectation that, at the next meeting of Synod, Ministerial Support shall be advanced throughout all our Congregations, smaller and larger, to a scale in in some degree commensurate to their solemn engagements and manifold privileges."

Deputations to Presbyteries

After much deliberation the Commission, which met in October, decided on sending a Deputation to each Presbytery to address them on the great importance and many practical bearings of this question at the present time, and to urge them to adopt such measures as might seem to their wisdom best fitted to meet the necessities of the case, and to secure the object contemplated by Synod. It also directed the publication of a brief Address, containing the portion of the Home Mission Report bearing on this question, for free circulation throughout the Church. In accordance with this arrangement Dr. Houston visited the Southern Presbytery. and Mr. Toland, senior, the Eastern, Mr. Nevin the Northern and Mr. Chancellor the Western. Thereupon each Presbytery adopted its own arrangements. The Western arranged an interchange of pulpits on the annual day of Thanksgiving among the ministers, that this subject might be brought before the people in a discourse from the pulpit. The Southern first directed each minister to preach to his own people on the subject, and afterwards followed this up by sending a Deputation to each Congregation on the Monday after the Spring Communion. In the Eastern and Northern Presbyteries each Congregation was visited and addressed by a Deputation, in many instances taking a portion of the Annual Day of Fasting as most suitable and convenient for the purpose.

Results.

The results of these measures have not yet been fully ascertained. The Deputations aimed to present to the people the great principles and practical exhortations of God's Word bearing upon this duty, in a solemn and affectionate manner, and in every case, we believe, they were heard on the whole with deep attention, and with kindly and sympathetic interest in the subject discussed. In some congregations there may be found individual exceptions, who, from one cause or another, would gladly oppose, more or less publicly, any movement that is designed to advance the general interests of the Church; and especially any movement that tends to an increased measure and standard of liberality. But we are gratified in being able to report, from all quarters, that such exceptions have exhibited themselves in connection with the present movement, very rarely indeed. The members, and especially the office-bearers of the Church, have shown in a considerable degree, the grace which was manifested so remarkably in Apostolic times, in being forward and "willing of themselves"—"to their power, yea, and beyond their power" in some instances—in providing for the support and comfort of Ministers whom they love in the Lord. Several Congregations anticipated the visit of the Deputation by

advancing, of their own accord, their stipend list, to the desired amount. The two first who have done so deserve honourable mention, because they stand among the smallest self-supporting congregations in the Church, and at the same time they had on hands, or in immediate contemplation, extensive improvements on their places of worship. These were Convoy and Newtownards. They have been followed more at leisure, and with much greater ease of course, by Kellswater and Kilraughts. In such places the Deputations had little to do but congratulate the people on the liberal spirit which they had shown, and to commend the office-bearers for the wisdom and the promptness with which they had carried into effect the directions of Synod. Other congregations responded to the addresses of the Deputations in the most cordial and respectful manner; and some of them took instant steps for the accomplishment, sooner or later, of the object which was set before them. The congregation of Dervock and Ballymoney presented their minister at once with the sum of £110, and proposed to increase their stipend as speedily as possible.

Convoy and Newtownards.

Kellswater and Kilraughts.

Dervock and Ballymoney.

On the whole, the movement which was originated at last Synod, has been carried forward with spirit and fidelity over the whole Church; and the returns, so far as we have received them, have been encouraging and satisfactory. The people have now an intelligent and growing conviction of the real importance and necessity of providing an adequate support for the Ministry of the Church. And the spirit of Christian liberality, in contributing freely for every good cause, from scriptural motives, and in many cases statedly and systematically, in proportion as the Lord hath prospered them, is manifestly increasing among them. The many sermons and addresses which have been delivered on the subject during the past year, not being of a trivial or ephemeral character, but presenting the whole subject in the solemn and convincing light of God's Word, and of the highest interests of the Church, have already borne good and ripe fruit in several places, and will, we trust, continue to produce like results in other places, even many days hence. "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days."

The necessity for firm and united action on the part of this Synod, and the other Courts of the Church, in advancing, from time to time, the scale of Ministerial support in accordance with the exigencies of the times, must be evident to any unbiassed and intelligent mind. It was by express Divine prescription that so abundant a support was provided for all the priests and Levites under the Old Dispen-

sation. This is the solid basis upon which the Ordinance of Christ is placed for securing the same object under the New Dispensation. "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." There is the *minimum* which Christ appointed; and the Church should never have departed from it. It implies that the whole support of the Preacher of the Gospel should be furnished, in grateful response and acknowledgment of the spiritual benefits conferred, by those to whom he preaches: and it also implies that this should be no pinched or niggard support, but such an adequate and cordial contribution of outward things as would enable him freely to live and labour in the sphere which the preaching of the Gospel requires him to occupy. If the support of the ministry be insufficient for this, then he is driven from his proper sphere, and forced to withdraw much of his time and energy from the great business of his spiritual vocation, and thus the work of God is more or less hindered and marred, and spiritual loss inflicted on the Church, which is of unspeakably greater consequence than any loss of mere worldly things. A young man fresh from his studies, and just about to enter on the work of the ministry, can be no proper judge, either of what a congregation should contribute, or what a minister should receive, that he might be able to live by the Gospel. Besides, it would be utterly degrading to his feelings, and injurious to the dignity and influence of the office wherewith he is invested, to have to enter upon personal negociations and arrangements, from time to time, upon such a subject. All this unpleasantness and injury is effectually prevented by the right administration of the law of Christ, who is the exclusive Head and Legislator in the Church. The support of the Ministry is not left to be settled by private contract or negociation between Pastor and people. It is a matter of too great importance to the welfare and stability of the whole Church to be disposed of in such a manner. This ordinance, like every other ordinance of Christ, must be authoritatively regulated and dispensed by the Courts of the Church, in accordance with the spirit and precepts of His Divine Word, and with a view to the prosperity of the whole body. The very nature and fundamental principles of Presbyterianism demand that this should be the case. The Courts of the Church must determine, by the authority of Christ, what is due to the people on the one hand, in the way of spiritual privilege, and what is necessary on the other, in the way of outward support, for the right discharge of the Ministerial office. They have always determined the course and amount of secular and theological education which candidates must

Necessity for Church Courts taking action in the matter.

possess, and congregations concur with them in exacting the full measure that is required, whatever labour or money it may cost. They have determined also the whole order and amount of official service which must be rendered, Sabbath after Sabbath, year after year, by all who are invested with this sacred office. And is it not manifestly equitable and righteous, as well as necessary, that they should also determine, from time to time, what is the measure of the people's duty and privilege in the support of the ministry, and what is the smallest amount—the minimum of support—on which they would be warranted in ordaining a man to the responsibilities and duties of this office, with any rational prospect of his being able to devote himself wholly to the discharge of its functions, as required by Christ.

Requirements of First Book of Discipline.

In preparing the First Book of Discipline so early as the year 1560, the Reformed Church of Scotland showed its wise appreciation of the Scriptural obligation and many practical and urgent bearings of this subject by deciding upon a minimum to be paid in kind, and leaving it to the discretion of the congregation from year to year, how much more should be paid in money. Under "The Fifth Head, concerning the Provision for the Ministers," it is said, "Seeing that of our Master Christ Jesus, and his Apostle Paul, we have, that the workman is worthy of his reward, and that the mouth of the labouring ox ought not to be muzzled; of necessity it is, that honest provision be made for the ministers, which we require to be such that they have no occasion of solicitude—and this provision must be made not only for their own sustentation, during their lives, but also for their wives and their children after them. Difficult it is to appoint a several stipend to every minister, by reason that the charge and necessity of all will not be alike. We judge, therefore, that every minister have sufficient whereupon to keep an house, and be sustained honestly in all things necessary, as books, clothes, flesh, fish, fuel, and other things necessary, forth of the rents and treasury of the Kirk where he serveth, at the discretion of the congregation, conform to the quality of the person, and necessity of the time. Wherein it is thought good that every minister shall have at least forty bolls meal, twenty-six bolls malt, to find his house bread and drink; and more, so much as the discretion of the Church finds necessary, besides money for buying of other provisions for his house and other necessaries, provided always that there be advanced to every minister sufficient provision for a quarter of a year beforehand of all things." By an Act of the year 1617, both a minimum and maximum stipend was fixed. Since these regulations were first adopted,

it may be safely asserted, that there has been no Presbyterian Church in the kingdom that has not found it necessary to follow the example which was here so wisely set of fixing a minimum standard of Ministerial Support, even when congregations had to be largely assisted in reaching it, out of a general supplementary Fund. Our own Regulations are but the adaptation to our peculiar circumstances of the above-cited decisions of the early Church of Scotland.

Action of Congregationalists.

The great practical weakness and defect of the Congregational or Independent form of Church Government is, that no common action can be authoritatively adopted and applied to the whole body. In consequence of this, Pastors have been generally left to make the best arrangements they could with congregations seeking to obtain their services. The evils arising from this state of things are found to be so great and ruinous that it is felt by the body in general that they can no longer be permitted to continue without a remedy. The Congregational Union of England and Wales, which met in London during the month of May, was forced, in view of this state of things, to adopt measures avowedly borrowed from the action of Presbyterian Courts, and substantially the same as those which have been in force for many years amongst ourselves. A few extract from the Papers and statements of Members on the subject may not be without instruction and interest for us at the present moment. "The Minimum," it is said in the leading Paper, "of any adequate support should surely not be less than £100 in villages, and £150 in towns. I ask you what £100 a-year in any part of England means now-a-days to support the wants of a Christian pastor?—£100! Why, in all these cases to a greater or less extent it means gnawing care, anxiety, headache, and heartache too. I have travelled through all parts of Scotland, and I am free to confess that I should desire above all things to see the day when we could behold every recognised Independent minister enjoying the means and occupying the status of a Free Church Minister: it is their glory, and I think a righteous one, that there is a minimum below which the income of the humblest of their brethren shall not fall." Another says—"I rise simply for the purpose of saying that as long as our people have ministers, whom they love and honour, they should support them as ministers whom they love and honour. There are many of our ministers who are receiving the salaries which they were receiving thirty years ago—receiving the same salaries which they received at a time when the expense of living was certainly twenty per cent. cheaper than it is at the present time; they are receiving the same salaries from

people who, in the meantime, have grown from cottages to large houses, or who have grown from large houses to mansions, and have set up their carriages and all the rest of it. It is a simple injustice and wrong. And they will say to each other, 'Oh, he does not keep pace with the age.' How can he keep pace with the age? The charge of mercenariness, which is sometimes thoughtlessly brought against such a man, is a charge utterly false and mean."

Recommendations. We conclude this Report by recommending Synod to lay it upon Presbyteries as a solemn and imperative duty to prosecute this movement, in whatever way may seem best to themselves, until our self-supporting congregations contribute at the rate of 10s per member per annum on the average, for the support of the ministry, or at all events, until their stipend is raised over all the Church to the minimum of £100 in the year, with a Manse, and in the country a Manse farm. Moreover, Presbyteries should be required to report from year to year what attention has been given to this subject, and what progress has been made towards this most desirable and necessary consummation.

Report of Colonial Mission. XXIV. Dr. Newell read the Report of the Colonial Mission. It was moved by Mr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Graham, and passed *nem. con.*, that it be adopted and published.

The following is the Report:—

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL MISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1869.

In times like these, when the Church of Christ enjoys rest from persecution, we find that her temporal interests are affected chiefly by the character and condition of the country where her lot is cast. Accordingly it might be expected that in the new countries, now open to emigration, rising with the advancing tide of human progress, the prospects of growth and outward prosperity would be much more promising than in the old world. But it must be remembered that all the regions of the New World are not alike prosperous, and that the fluctuations of human affairs are even greater with them than with us. Besides *time*, longer or shorter as the case may be, is requisite for the establishment of social life upon a stable or settled basis. The actual state of matters in a particular locality must be taken into account before we can, with any measure of correctness, judge of the prospects of the Church in that place; and accurate information can only be obtained from those who are familiar with the place and the people.

Colonies still need help.

We might naturally hope that Missionary settlements in our flourishing Colonies would speedily thrive, and in the end become *self-supporting*; perhaps, in our sanguine moments, our expectations may rise so high as to fancy them assisting us in our old age and decrepitude. Our expectations in part, are likely to disappoint us; or, at least, to be so long deferred in their fulfilment as to try our patience and test our endurance and sympathy. The truth must be told, that our Colonial Mission Stations are still struggling for bare existence; and that, perhaps at no former period, were they called to pass through a more trying crisis, than at the present moment. At no former time in the history of these Missions did they require more our support, our co-operation, and our prayers. The reasons for making this statement will appear from the following considerations, relating in part to matters of principle, and in part to matters of fact:—

Effect of Agitation for Union.

The maintenance of our *distinctive principles* is even more difficult in new countries than at home. It is the frequent boast of Colonists that they are to a great extent freed from some special evils against which we practically testify in these lands; and there is, therefore a strong desire manifested to enjoy political freedom in its full exercise. It is not, however, with political sects chiefly or solely that the conflict of principle is to be waged; but also with religious bodies. These are at present in a glow of excitement in relation to the Union Agitation; and, in both the Australian and American Continents, the coalition of the various members of the Presbyterian family may be said to be all but complete. Religious men do not or will not see, that Covenanters are required consistently with their principles to abstain from co-operation with negotiants for union, on the bases at present put forward; and that adherence to our Covenants precludes incorporation with any party in Church or State which ignores their continued obligation on those represented in the taking of them. The relative difficulties of our Missionaries in distant dependencies of the British Empire are thus increased; besides they are few and weak, while the multitudes of professors around them by no means relish the principles and practice of Covenanters. We have evidence of this at home; and yet our grievance is but slight compared with theirs. The correspondence of our Missionaries received from time to time, and the publications from their pen, which we read occasionally, plainly indicate the direction of the current against them, and their faithful and earnest endeavours to contend for the truth.

It is to be hoped that when these unions have been all accomplished, and the excitement has subsided, intelligent

Christians will take time to consider the grounds on which we remain unincorporated with them. *Then*, perhaps, our testimony for "Christ's Crown and Covenant," may be more freely inquired after and received with greater favour.

Effect of Emigra ion from B. N. A. Colonies.

"The BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES, because of the greater prosperity and near neighbourhood of the United States, are subject at times to a drainage of the population by Emigration. Late accounts from both NEW BRUNSWICK and NOVA SCOTIA complain of this. NOVA SCOTIA particularly suffers. The Canadian Confederation has "dissatisfied many of the people (in Nova Scotia) to such a degree that they would prefer almost any connection to that with the Canadians." The Wilmot (Nova Scotia) Congregation has suffered severely from this cause. In relation thereto, Mr. Stewart writes—"The universality of the change" (by emigration) "forbids us, when it does occur, to conclude that some *strange* thing has befallen *us*, but does not render it less painful. We cannot bid those, who in the land of their adoption saw eye to eye with us in things pertaining to the advancement of Messiah's Kingdom—who were ever ready to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, to contribute out of their penury for the support of Gospel ordinances—of whom we may say as Paul did of the Galatians, if it had been possible they would have plucked out their own eyes and given them to us—*we cannot bid such farewell without a sigh.*" We fondly cherish the hope that, notwithstanding these losses, the Congregation of Wilmot may be able to maintain their position.

The minister of St. John, New Brunswick, writes—"All our Congregations have suffered more or less from death and emigration during the year, and whilst many of the aged and the excellent are, from time to time, taken away, we have all to deplore that so few comparatively speaking of the rising generation, seem willing to bear the yoke in their youth." By all accounts it would appear that, irrespective of the depopulation of Congregations and districts by emigration, the accessions to membership barely counterbalance the losses by death alone; so that the prospects of our Mission are not bright, if we are to take outward growth as the criterion of prosperity.

Out-Stations

It is, on the other hand, encouraging to find that as regards *Wilmot*, which has suffered so much by emigration, "the *out posts* of the Congregation, with one exception, are in a more prosperous state than at any former period—the attendance larger, and the hearers in general give more earnest heed to the things that are spoken." The minister of St. John (New Brunswick), having just returned from a visit to *Millstream*,

reports—'Our missionary stations have been receiving the same attention as formerly, but they are so widely scattered and some of them so seldom visited that we cannot expect to see such evidences of *life* and *growth* as might be looked for, were the administration of Gospel ordinances more frequent."

Illness of Rev. W. Sommerville

To the foregoing considerations, respecting the American mission and its missionaries, should be added our regret to hear of the severe illness of the senior missionary, Rev. W. Somerville.

At date of June 1st, Mr. Stewart writes—"At first an affection of the lungs was feared, but happily this is not the nature of his illness. He is completely prostrated by general debility. Nor is this to be wondered at, if we consider the amount both of physical and mental effort which the supply of the numerous outposts he visited required. His pulpit ministrations have not latterly been confined to the Sabbath. So eager has he been for the last two years to preach the word, that, in addition to three exercises on the Lord's day, he preached frequently during the week. Indeed, he seemed to be unmindful of the fact, that it is possible for the spirit to be willing and the flesh to be weak; and for the inner man to be renewed day by day, while the outward man is perishing.' This testimony of a brother missionary to his valuable labours is most gratifying. It is evident that the Mission could ill bear any diminution of that zeal and ability which have marked the life of Mr. Somerville, much less the loss of his valuable labours; and yet the advanced years of the senior missionary, spent in abundant labours in a most trying climate, should lead us to anticipate those changes which the lapse of time always brings with it. We desire to express our deepest sympathy with our brother in his sickness and trials, and would pray God to bless him and grant him, if it be His holy will, many more years of life and increased usefulness.

Australia.

The published report of the GEELONG (AUSTRALIA) Congregation render any special reference to this department of our Missions unnecessary in this report. Mr. Moore has supplied the following additional particulars, under date March 1st:—"I am happy to mention that my Bible Class is growing. Our Communion will be held next month, if all is well. I am not sure at present whether we are likely to receive any members on this occasion. The Sabbath School goes on well. I never had so many teachers as at present. The attendance on public worship keeps up pretty well." Mr. Moore has been unable to keep up monthly preaching in Melbourne, on account of expenses, and entertains little

hope of being able to fulfil the appointment to Bargo, Sydney, in consequence of not being likely to meet with the members of the Church all in one place at any specified time.

Our brethren require every aid, which it is in our power to bestow; and, at present, as much as, yea, more than, ever, they are looking to us for encouragement and support. The Commission recommend to Synod to make the usual grant of £20 to Mr. Moore; and as a small token of our sympathy with Mr. Somerville in his recent affliction a donation of £10.

The accompanying financial statement for this year is encouraging; the collections were in general promptly transmitted; and Synod may be able at no distant day to carry out its intention of augmenting to some extent the salaries of our Missionaries.

Grant to Mr. Moore.

A grant of £20 was made to the Rev. A. M. Moore, Missionary in Australia, in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission.

Grant to Rev. W. Sommerville

Synod also ordered £10 to be sent to Rev. W. Sommerville, of Nova Scotia, in addition to the usual annual grant to him out of the fund, as an expression of sympathy with him in regard to his recent illness.

Report of Irish Mission.

XXV. The Report of the Irish Mission was read by Mr. Russell. Its adoption was moved by Dr. Dick, seconded by Rev. R. Allen, and passed, *nem. diss.*

The Report follows:—

REPORT OF THE IRISH MISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 30TH JUNE, 1869.

The progress of events in the nations of Europe, that for many centuries have been the bulwarks of the Papacy, is at present running strongly in opposition to its interests.

Current in Europe against Popery.

The dislike that prevails against civil despotism, and ecclesiastical intolerance, and the general desire for constitutional government are undermining the Papacy, lessening the power of the priesthood, stirring up among the people a spirit of inquiry, and causing them to look to Protestant lands for the exemplification of popular government. Even Spain has learned that where this blessing is enjoyed a free Bible has had much to do in leading to such a result, and many are reading and circulating the Scriptures, not without regard to the spiritual benefits they confer.

In Britain, rather favourable.

In this country the condition of affairs and course of events operate in the opposite direction. They are generally favourable to Popery. The measure for the pacification of Ireland, now before Government, is causing no little exulta-

tion among the Romanist population, this, together with the spread of Romish doctrines and ritual observances in the Established Church of England and Ireland, and the freqnent perversions to the Church of Rome from that quarter, are all tending to strengthen the convictions of the Romanists that theirs is the Church against which the gates of hell shall not prevail.

Learning, &c. has been enlisted on its behalf.

There is a very erroneous opinion prevalent among Protestants, that ignorance is the strength of Popery, that if education can be extended to a people holding that faith, they cannot long remain honest adherents to that Church.

It is forgotten that, for many centuries, the learning of the world was mainly connected with that Church, that men distinguished in all departments of literature, science, and art are found within her pale, learned ecclesiastics, eminent statesmen, able lawyers and judges, are found in that communion, not the less Papists that they are distinguished by learning and ability.

The system of Popery, as it now exists, cannot be ascribed to any particular age. It is the growth and developement of many centuries. In the Apostolic age the mystery of iniquity did already work. From century to century new dogmas were added to the creed, the immaculate conception being the last, possibly to be succeeded by the "infallibility of the Pope," as a fruit of the approaching Œcumenical Council.

Incredible is the talent, learning, industry, toil, and pecuniary resources that have been expended in consolidating, maintaining, defending, and propagating this system. Never have there been greater efforts made to extend its influence than in the present day, especially in the United Kingdom, and with a success that is truly alarming; and the danger is greatly increased by Protestant apathy and unfaithfulness.

The mind and heart of the Papacy seems set upon the conversion of England.

Duty of Protestants.

The Protestant Churches in Great Britain have their eyes on this land, and feel constrained to do something for the enlightenment of Ireland, either by originating Missions or aiding those in existence.

— of Covenanters.

If any Church in this land should feel more deeply than another its obligation to resist the agressions of Popery, and put forth its best efforts to make the way of salvation known to its adherents, it is this historical Church engaged by covenant to extirpate the systems of Government called Popery and Prelacy. Some may think, we may be excused from putting in an appearance among the Churches in this field of Mission effort, on the ground that the Church is

small, and has to tax her means largely to support ordinances and aid the schemes of the Church.

A moment's consideration will shew that this Church cannot be exonerated from taking a share in this work. Not according to that a man hath not, but according to that he hath, is the rule. We are bound to cast in our mite, it may be accepted and blessed not less than the offerings of wealthier contributors.

Kind of Agents needed.

In prosecuting an Irish Mission a first care should be to secure well qualified agents. Men of literary attainments and ability—but, above all, men devoted to their work, and full of zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, are needed. Sensible well informed godly men, earnestly seeking the welfare of immortal souls to God's glory, will do good even in the darkest parts of Ireland. Popery is the same everywhere; yet there may be circumstances connected with a locality that render it more eligible as a field of labour than other places, and there may be something in considering the resources by which the work is to be carried forward to influence in making choice of the locality.

Young men of ability and piety should be sought out who would give themselves heartily to Mission work, and they should be superintended and directed in their studies, with special reference to the Mission on which it is intended they shall labour.

The facts we have to report on the present occasion are not joyous, yet no temptation hath overtaken us but such as is common to them who are engaged in similar work.

School in Mayo.

At the last meeting of Synod we had to report that our School in Mayo had been interfered with, and its numbers diminished by priestly influence. The like had occurred before, about the same season of the year, but the school soon recovered. The like was at that time expected, but did not happen.

From the knowledge we had of the state of matters there, on the ground of the smallness of the school, we severed the connexion between the teacher and us. This happened at the end of August.

Death of Mr. M'Tighe.

The Mission, however, was visited by a heavier stroke at a later period of the year, by the death of Mr. Patrick M'Tighe, the Mission Agent, on the 4th of February, at the age of 59 years, after an illness which extended over a period little under two months, and during which his sufferings were very great, and his reason gone. Towards the close his intellect cleared, and the condition of his soul, so far as it could be ascertained, was satisfactory. He maintained his consistency till the close. The Rector of Cong,

— his Character and History.

Mr. M'Tighe's Character and Labours

the Protestant Chaplain of Ballinrobe hospital, and a Scripture Reader, manifested their respect and sympathy by visiting him in his trouble.

The deceased Reader, when a boy at school, made the acquaintance of some Scriptnre Reader then in the parish. His attention was directed to the Scriptures, which he read and carefully studied, and to this he ascribed his conversion. He first qualified for teacher, shortly returned to Dublin and qualified for the office of Scripture Reader. He had large experience as a Reader in different parts of Ireland previously to his being employed by us; and, being a good Irish scholar, superintended Irish schools for a season. When he entered on his labours in our employment, he was a man of matured experience. He laboured under our direction for twelve years, and shewed in the prosecution of his work attainments, ability, and prudence.

The field of his labours, taking Cong as the centre, extended to about five miles around it. The houses that received him were very considerable, yet, as a whole, few in comparison to the entire population; and, this being so in a country district, the labour was great, in regard to the number of calls. He visited on an average from twenty to twenty-eight families weekly. His weekly journal was furnished with great punctuality. Every call was entered, and the subject of conversation, connected with which was a narrative of the incidents, specially interesting, with outlines of lengthened conversations and arguments His journals furnish evidence of his tact, good sense, thorough knowledge of the Romish controversy, and ability to improve his opportunities. He was a ready scribe, and expressed himself neatly, clearly, and vigorously. He evidently laboured wisely and well in circumstances of isolation, sowing the good seed of the Word, in his own quiet way of "telling this story of peace," as he liked to call the Gospel—unfolding the way of salvation to many who otherwise would not have had the means of hearing it. The effects of his humble labours we shall not fully know till the day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, but we may certainly indulge the hope that seed sown by his instrumentality may yet spring up, and bear fruit even in distant lands many days hence.

A word now in reference to the future, and we close.

We were requested by Commission, if convenient, to visit the field of our agent's late labours before Synod.

We did not find it convenient to make this visit. The inconvenience, however, might have been overcome had it appeared to us that anything would be gained to countervail our loss. We thought we knew the state of matters there

nearly as well as we would do after a visit. Moreover we could avail ourselves of help.

What should be done for Mayo.

There is labouring in the adjoining parish a highly respectable Missionary who, at a remote time, laboured in Cong parish, and consequently knows it well. In reply to a question respecting the field in the altered circumstances, he writes:—"I dare not discourage the Lord's people in the Lord's work, for although the Anakims dwell in the land, and the walls of Popery are both high and strong, yet they are but 'stubble,' when the Lord is pleased to interfere in in His own behalf."

"Therefore I would say the darker the place is, and the more gloomy the prospect, the more we should exert ourselves to bring the light that is in the Word of God before His benighted creatures, and leave the result in His hands from whom alone all blessings flow."

"And as to your sending a good man from the North of Ireland, if the Lord be on his side, I have no doubt but after some time he may be able to bring the Gospel plan of salvation before the poor benighted creatures of this unhappy country." He adds—"In conclusion, I have to say that the best course you can take with respect to Cong, is to launch into active duty, and leave the result to the all-wise disposer of all things."

So writes a man who is as competent as any one to form a correct judgment on the subject. It may be well to keep the field open should it be only by an *interim* appointment. We should, in prosecuting this work, have a minister for one of our agents, who should know his Bible, and the Romish controvesy well—to preach wherever he can find hearers, not showing any special desire for controversy, but ever prepared for it should it be thrust upon him. We should have one or more readers associated with him in this work. We have made some inquiries in regard to a fit person to be appointed on the Mission, but have not yet succeeded in finding one we could recommend.

The right improvement of our experience is increased reliance on God, and more strenuous efforts to advance His glory, remembering that the exalted Mediator often chooses the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Memorial from Dublin.

A memorial from Dublin was read in connection with the Report, in which the memorialists prayed Synod to select Dublin as the head quarters for the future operations of the Irish Mission, so that the ministerial agent who might be appointed in the working of the Mission might also act as the minister of the congregation in Dublin.

It was moved by the Rev. H. M'Fadden, and seconded by the Rev. C. K. Toland, that the prayer of the Dublin Memorial be granted.

The mind of Synod, however, was, that there should be no haste in coming to a decision in the case; and the consideration of all the matters connected with the Report and the Memorial was remitted to the Commission.

It was agreed to suspend the standing order, so as to meet at 5 o'clock in the evening instead of 7—to proceed with the other business till 8—and at 8 to hear the Scottish Deputation.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VII.

Thursday, 1st July, Five o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

Committee on Hall Fund reports.

XXVI. The Committee appointed yesterday on the financial arrangements of the Theological Hall *(vid. supra,* Min. XVII*)* reported as follows :—

"The Committee on the Funds of the Hall, &c., respectfully report—That the proportionate increase of the Professors' salaries would be, £50 for the one, and £45 for the other, who lives nearer Belfast; which we consider all too little, but the least that should be voted by Synod. In reference to the supply of their pulpits, we can arrive at no other conclusion than that the Professors' desire to preach to their congregations themselves should be acceded to for the present."

The Report was adopted by Synod.

Report of Theological Hall.

XXVII. The Report on the Theological Hall was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by Rev. W. Russell, seconded by Rev. J. Hart, and passed *nem. diss.*

The following is the Report :—

REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL HALL, SESSION XV, 1868.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall report, that the Fifteenth Session was opened on the 28th of July. There were fifteen Students in attendance; one, of the 4th year; four, of the 3d; three of the 2d; six, of the 1st; and one who had been a private Student for four previous Sessions was a public Student this session. The Committee examined on the subjects which had been prescribed for intersessional study, and the answering was considered highly satisfactory. Three weeks were allowed for giving in the Bursary essays. In the evening Professor Dick delivered the opening public Lecture on "The Duty of Nations as such to favour the Religion of Christ."

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

Lectures and Examinations.

I. EXEGESIS.—1. Six Lectures Exegetical and Apologetical on The Life of Christ on Earth.

2. Eight Critical Lectures on 2 Corinthians, chapters vii—xiii.

3. Hebrew Readings—Senior Division—Psalms i—xxiv, and Prophecy of Joel:—Heads of Hebrew Grammar (Tregelles), and Psalms i, ii.

4. In Greek Testament, read critically 1 Timothy.

II. PASTORAL THEOLOGY.—Nine Lectures on Church Government—the General Principles—the Congregational, Prelatical, and Presbyterian Systems—Erastianism—with Examinations on M'Leod's Ecclesiastical Catechism, and Millar on Presbyterianism,

III. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.—1. Readings and Examinations on Mosheim, the first three centuries, and till the time of Constantine.

2. Nine Lectures, on The Nature, Sources and Periods of Church History—Pentecost—The Christian Church among the Jews and its Extension to the Gentiles—The different Types of Jewish and Gentile Christianity—The Persecutions of the Primitive Church—Apostolic Doctrine, its different Phases—Gnosticism—The Rise and Progress of Prelacy—Christian Life in the Early Ages—and a concluding Lecture on Scottish Ecclesiastical History, The Revolution Settlement.

IV. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY.—In this department there were Thirty-seven Lectures delivered in all. One was the opening public Lecture. Ten were expositions of portions of Luke's Gospel. The remainder related to the Redeemer's Prophetical, Priestly, and Kingly Offices; dwelling particularly on the Necessity, Reality, Perfection, and Definite Character of the Atonement, and adverting to the perversions of the doctrine by Dwight, Wardlaw, Barnes, and others. There were examinations on these Lectures, and also on portions of Turretin's Theology.

V. MORAL PHILOSOPHY.—There were Examinations on Wardlaw's Christian Ethics.

The Students prepared Essays on prescribed subjects for each Professor, on alternate weeks; and gave good proof of their proficiency.

Bursaries.

VI. BURSARIES.—The Junior Bursary of £5 was awarded to Mr. Isaac Thompson, for an Essay on "The true Source of a Nation's Prosperity," and an examination on Garbett's "God's Word Written."

The Senior Bursary, also of £5, was given to Mr. James Martin, for an Essay on "Indiscriminate Endowment of Religion by the State," and an examination on "The Doctrine of Justification by Dr. James Buchanan," while the Committee considered the Essay and answers of Mr. William M'Knight as worthy of great commendation.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

Close of Session.

The Session was closed on the 30th of September. The Professors reported most favourably of the conduct and diligence of the Students, and examined on the subjects of study during the session. The Committee expressed great satisfaction with the answering. One Student had been prevented by illness from attending the full time, but he had been able to make attendance for five weeks. In the evening Dr. Houston delivered the concluding public Lecture on "The Solemn League and Covenant—its History, Nature, and Obligation; and the Importance of its grand Principles at the present time."

EXAMINATION FOR LICENSE.

Final Examination of Mr. James Dick, A.M.

Mr. James Dick was examined by the Committee, in accordance with Synod's instructions, on Theology, Church History and Hebrew. Inasmuch as he had a degree of A.M. from the Queen's University, the Committee deemed it unnecessary to examine him on the other subjects embraced in his curriculum; and the examination, in so far as it was conducted, being sustained, he was remitted with certification to his Presbytery to be taken under trials for license.

ELOCUTION CLASS.

Elocution Class.

The attendance on this class had not been good, owing to a pressure of other business. For this reason the Committee gave no prizes. But at a meeting held in the Hall for the purpose, on the evening of the day of closing the session, the Students read and recited several pieces, and gave evidence of considerable progress.

TIME FOR THE SESSIONS OF HALL.

Times for the Hall.

The Committee had before them and brought under the notice of the Commission the expediency of making a change on the time observed hitherto in the sessions of the Hall. It was deemed impossible for any young man to pay due attention to the very important study of Theology, while his undergraduate course remained unfinished. It was therefore suggested that the Session of the Hall should be in Winter, for four months, beginning with November; that three of such sessions should constitute the course; and that no student

should henceforth be allowed to enter the Hall until he had been three sessions at a College or University, when he might be expected to have completed his undergaduate course. The views expressed were commended to the consideration of Synod's Committee on The Plan of Education of Candidates for the Ministry, to be embodied in any Plan they should propose. Such a Plan was subsequently submitted to Commission, and by its orders was printed and sent to ministers for their mature consideration in prospect of Synod's meeting.

INTERSESSIONAL STUDIES.

Subjects of Study for 1869.

I. COMMENCEMENT EXAMINATIONS.—All Students who shall attend the Hall in 1869—both such as enter for the first time, and those who have already attended, will be examined on the following subjects:—

HOLY SCRIPTURES.—Jeremiah—Analysis of Contents—Chronology—Connexion of Sacred and Profane History—Predictions referring to the New Testament—Lessons of the life and ministry of Jeremiah. New Testament—1st and 2nd Epistles to Timothy.

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION—Chapters I.—IV. inclusive.

HISTORICAL TESTIMONY.—Period IV.—Chapers III. and IV.—and Period V.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY—Eighth and Ninth Centuries—Charlemagne—Image Controversy—Saracen Conquests—The Paulikians—Controversies on Grace and the Lord's Supper, &c.

HEBREW, AND GREEK TESTAMENT.—All the Students to be examined on Tregelles's "Heads of Hebrew Grammar"—and in Greek Testament—first 7 Chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. Students of the Second year—Psalm xxii.—in Hebrew. Those of the Third and Fourth Years to be examined on Exodus xxiii and xxiv.—in Hebrew and the Septuagint.

Bursaries to be competed for.

II. BURSARIES.—The subject of Essay for the Junior Bursary (open for competition to Students of the first and second years) is "Spain; its History since the suppression of the Reformation, and probable effects of the recent Revolution." The examination to be on Rogers's "Eclipse of Faith."

The subject of Essay for the Senior Bursary (open for competition to Students of the third and fourth years) is "A Critical Dissertation on the First Chapter of Genesis." The examination to be on "Hodge on the Atonement."

The Students are recommended to read Wayland's "Moral Science," and Edwards on the "Religious Affections."

The prescribed discourses and the Essays for the Bursaries are to be in readiness at the opening of the Session of the Hall.

FUNDS.

State of the Funds.

The contributions for the past year have, as usual for several years past, met the outlay, leaving a small balance beyond. This balance would not exist, however, but for some contributions from places that had never contributed to this Fund before. This shows that on the whole there has been a falling off in the contributions of this year as compared with the former and other years, for the expenditure has not been greater but a little less. This is not encouraging. Should the suggested change in the time of the sessions of the Hall be carried out, that will necessitate an increase in the expenditure. It is to be hoped that congregations will remember these facts when the time of the collection for the Hall once more comes round.

Time of Opening Hall.

The opening of the Hall was appointed to be on the second Wednesday in November.

Committee of Superintendence.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Hall was appointed, consisting of the following members:—

The Moderator of Synod.	Rev. W. Toland.
Rev. W. Russell.	Rev. G. Douglas.
Rev. J. A. Chancellor.	Rev. R. Nevin, *Convener*.

Times of Commission Meeting.

XXVIII. It was ruled that henceforth the Commission of Synod should meet but twice in the interval between the meetings of Synod, that is to say, on the second Tuesday in November and the second Tuesday in March; in the same week with the opening and closing of the Theological Hall; and that if found necessary, two days might be taken for the transaction of the business.

Report of Foreign and Jewish Mission.

XXIX. Dr. Houston read the Report of the Foreign and Jewish Mission. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. W. Toland, seconded by the Rev. W. Russell, and passed *nem. diss.* The Report follows:—

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1869.

We are taught by our ascended Lord and Redeemer to pray—"THY KINGDOM COME;" and if we present this petition in sincerity of heart, it must be with the feeling that we lie under solemn and very weighty obligations to propagate the Gospel to the widest extent possible, and to make known the Saviour's light and salvation throughout the nations.

The work of Christian evangelization may be appropriately said to be the Church's great mission in the earth, and our

Mission of the Church in the World.

engaging in it, and prosecuting it with vigour, may be taken as a true test of approved Christian character, and growth in holiness. Love to Christ is the spirit of missions, and faith in the power, providence, and graee of the enthroned Redeemer is the only principle on which they can be properly undertaken and prosecuted.

The great duty of diffusing abroad the knowledge of Christ, and of seeking the conversion of the world, is constantly pressed more and more upon the attention of the Church in all its sections; and with so much light as is now shed upon the condition of the nations that are immersed in spiritual darkness and idolatry, and so many powerful motives to urge the Church to task her utmost resources, and put forth devoted efforts for claiming the world for Christ, there must be something greatly at fault with the Church and its members, if they do not fully recognise their duty, and set themselves to accomplish it—of labouring earnestly and perseveringly for the conversion of Jews and Gentiles throughout the world.

Encouragements.

Recent important events that have taken place in various portions of the earth—the growing earnest spirit of the Churches—the singular openings that have lately been made for the spread of the Gospel—and the signal measure of success that has followed the work of Protestant missions in some countries—all loudly call us to consider solemnly our present position, and to endeavour, by all possible means, to consecrate our energies to the establishment of the Redeemer's Kingdom in the earth.

China.

Comparing the condition of Pagan and other nations in relation to the Missionary enterprise, as it was some twenty years ago, with what it is in many places now, the aspects are inviting and hopeful, to a wonderful degree. CHINA, with a population amounting nearly to one third of the world's inhabitants, was then almost wholly inaccessible to Christian Missions—it is now generally open to the heralds of the Cross. Not fewer than *one hundred and twenty* European and American Missionaries are labouring throughout different parts of the Chinese Empire and on its borders, and the Gospel is now publicly proclaimed in Pekin, the capital. Though difficulties considerable may be expected in carrying forward evangelistic efforts in China, and Christian labourers may have to encounter hard trials, yet these only serve to show that successful inroads are being made on the territory of the Prince of darkness; and we cannot doubt that the light that has begun to break upon this vast country will continue rapidly to increase, till it shall be filled, from one end to the other with the glory of Christ's name and salvation.

India.

INDIA, in its vast and diversified population, gives, in many parts, clear and unmistakeable evidence of becoming sick of its idols, and of ancient and gigantic systems of false learning and vain philosophy tottering to their downfall. All the Missionary Societies that have agents labouring throughout our Indian empire report, during the past year, gratifying success. In some instances, such as native Indian Princes receiving the truth of Christ in the love of it—one of them lately presided at one of the Missionary Anniversaries in Exeter Hall—and whole communities of natives, consisting of thousands of people, placing themselves under Christian instruction, the prospects of progress and ultimate victory are highly encouraging.

Madagascar.

The recent rapid spread of Gospel light in MADAGASCAR, where a cruel persecution continued for *twenty-eight years*, severely tried the faith and patience of Christian converts, is most cheering. Within the last few months, the reigning Queen and her Prime Minister have openly professed their faith in Christ, and have been admitted to fellowship in the Church, by receiving the seal of baptism. The manner in which the Sabbath is observed and the ordinances of Christianity are attended to in the Capital of Madagascar, and by those in public authority, is calculated to administer reproof and teach important lessons to the rulers and people of our own favoured lands.

Africa.

In the South and West of AFRICA, the work of Missions is making steady and vigorous progress. Exploration and scientific discoveries in North and Central Africa—the opening of Abyssinia to commerce and the Gospel—and the measures presently taken in various parts of the African Continent to put down slave-dealing and slavery, are all contributing to hasten forward the long promised era, when "Ethiopia shall stretch out her hands to God."

Turkey.

Throughout many parts of the TURKISH EMPIRE, the diffusion of Gospel truth, and the increase of evangelical churches that have been gathered out of the corrupt Eastern churches are most gratifying. To a large extent, these infant churches have, of late years, become self-supporting, and amidst their deep outward poverty they have, of their own accord, from the careful study and application of the Divine word, adopted the Scriptural mode of supporting the ministry and spreading the truth, by all the members of the church dedicating constantly the one-tenth of their incomes, be they greater or less, to Christ and His cause. They thus exhibit an example of supporting the Gospel which promises to be of essential value to Christians everywhere, even in the most favoured Protestant countries.

Continent of Europe.

The very remarkable openings that have of late been made in several of the principal Popish countries on the Continent of Europe, such as *Italy*, *Austria*, and *Spain*, afford much encouragement to those who pray for the subversion of the Anti-christian system, to engage in earnest prayerful efforts for the diffusion of Scriptural light throughout these and other Popish lands. The way in which great political changes have taken place in the condition of these countries, the ready access that evangelical labourers have had to multitudes of the population, and the valuable fruits which have already resulted from these labours, constrain us to confess devoutly that this is the finger of God, and lay the churches of Christ in these lands under the highest obligations to embrace the precious opportunities that are presented, for making known the light of Scriptural truth throughout dark and long enslaved nations. There is abundant cheering evidence that the door is open for the entrance of the agents of evangelical churches into the European countries which have been mentioned, and that, to a large extent, they will be welcomed by thousands who have long been held under the enthralling bondage of the Man of Sin.

Jews.

Missionaries who have gone forth to seek after the lost sheep of the house of Israel, throughout Italy and Austria, report that of late not only have they, in all places, access to the Jewish people, but that a spirit of earnest inquiry after the truth of the Saviour promised to their fathers, and already come, appears to be excited, and is extending. The Jews in *Moldavia* and *Bessarabia* are at present in a state of evident transition; and those who have recently attempted Missionary work among them, report that their success has been most encouraging. In various parts of the Russian Empire, especially in the North of Europe, large numbers of Jews have of late made their accession to the Christian church. The Jews in Russia have recently obtained political privileges, which were hitherto denied to them; and with the dawn of civil freedom, they would seem to be awakened, to some extent, to a sense of the value of religious liberty. It is pretty generally testified, moreover, that there are none of the Israelitish race, that appear more as religious inquirers, or whose minds seem more open to reasonings in behalf of the claims of Christianity, than Russian Jews, who visit the great fairs of Germany, or go to the South of Europe, or are found at times in commercial pursuits in the metropolis of Britain.

From this brief and cursory review, it must appear to every reflecting mind, that in the present day there is, throughout different nations, a wide-spread preparation for

the coming of the Redeemer's kingdom in the earth—that the Church enjoys many facilities for diffusing abroad the savour of Christ's name, and many solemn and powerful motives to propel her to the duty—and that it must be criminal, in no ordinary degree, at such a time, to neglect or defer its performance.

Correspondence with Synods in Scotland and America.

In relation to the FOREIGN and JEWISH MISSION which has been undertaken by the Synod and Church in this country, and in which our brethren of the Reformed Synod in Scotland have engaged cordially to co-operate with us, we have to report that a small committee, appointed by the Commission, corresponded during the year with the Mission Committee of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in America, in reference to the Missionaries who might be sent out by this church, co-operating with their Missionaries in Syria, in carrying forward and extending the Mission, according to a plan fitted to secure harmonious fraternal action, and, at the same time, to preserve the independent prosecution of Missionary labours, and their ecclesiastical connexion with their respective Synods. This communication was forwarded to America early in winter, and its receipt was duly acknowledged by the Convener of the Committee of the Foreign Mission. The reply was to the effect that our proposal was favourably received, but that it would require the special and mature consideration of the Committee, and that in all probability it would have to be submitted to the Synod for final decision. Although most anxious to have the field of our proposed Mission fully determined on, with as little delay as possible, we were obliged, in the circumstances, before taking other steps, to wait for an answer from our American brethren. None having come to hand for some months, the Secretary considered it important to communicate fully with our brother, Rev. James Kennedy, on his departure for America. He was requested to call the special attention of the American Synod to the matter of our co-operating in the Syrian Mission, and to seek from them a clear decision on the subject, as in case they should deem it right to decline our proposal, we would feel ourselves called, without undue delay, to select a field for our Jewish and Foreign Mission, either in some European country, or in some Heathen or Mohammedan land. We have very lately learned that our proposal in relation to the Syrian Mission was favourably regarded by the Synod in America, and that it was remitted to the Committee on Missions to take such action upon it as might, when all the circumstances had been considered, appear advisable. While we regret that so long a delay has already taken place in the matter of selecting a proper field for commencing

operations in a Foreign Mission, and that of necessity, a short period may yet expire before we shall be able to announce the united resolution of our own Synod, and that of Scotland on this subject, we should, in patience and hope, observe the indications of the Lord's will, on a matter of such vital importance, and should be excited to fervent and persevering prayer that He would direct all our steps, and would cause us to hear a voice behind us, saying—"*This is the way; walk ye in it.*"

Contributions.

As in former years, a Circular was issued and sent by the Secretary to the ministers and congregations of the Church, recommending that special discourses should be preached, declaring the duty and privilege of the Church to pray and labour for the conversion of Jews and Gentiles, and inviting voluntary contributions in behalf of our proposed Foreign and Jewish Mission. We have not the means of knowing to what extent the recommendation with respect to special discourses was complied with; but a few congregational collections, and several donations, have been received, which evince the deep interest taken by humble and devoted members of the church in the scheme of a Foreign Mission. In several cases, these donations were made by the beloved youth of the church, and by some when called to enter an early grave. Among their last utterances to endeared friends, before they passed away from earth, was the expression of solemn regret that they had done so little for the conversion of the world, and of an earnest heartfelt desire that this church would be honoured to labour for gathering in Jew and Gentile to the fold of the Great Shepherd. Such facts certainly afford ground to hope and believe that if we had the Mission contemplated in actual operation, there would neither be wanting the means for carrying it forward with vigour, nor the prayers of the Lord's people for a blessing upon the agents sent forth, and upon the great work in which they would be engaged.

Missionaries in Preparation.

It may be only suggested, in conclusion, that the Commission should regard it as their special duty, while we are waiting the decision of the different Synods respecting the field of labour, to manifest particular care in the preparation of those esteemed students, who have expressed their wish and purpose to devote themselves to the work of a Foreign Mission, and to yield to them all encouragement and necessary aid in going forward to accomplish so high and holy a purpose. They should, moreover, take all proper measures for keeping constantly before the mind and heart of the church the all-important duty of labouring for the world's conversion, and of continuing "instant in prayer" that the exalted Head of the church may direct and abundantly bless His servants.

prospering their way in this all-important undertaking. Let us all, henceforth, make it our fixed resolute purpose, to seek that the nations of the world may be brought to professed subjection to the reigning Mediator, and to claim the utmost parts of the earth for His Covenanted possession.

Blessing to be expected.

There is no law of His kingdom that is more uniform in its operation than this, that those who dispense blessings to others are themselves blessed. Soon as we are privileged to enter directly on labours for the conversion of the Jews and the Heathens, we have all reason, from the assured word of promise, as well as from the experience of other churches that have been employed in like labours, fully to believe that this will be the commencement of an era of revival and blessing to the Covenanted church in these countries, and that we and our children will be honoured to enlarge the place of Zion's tent, and to stretch forth "the curtains of her habitation." So may we anticipate the fulfilment of the precious promise—"*Thou shalt break forth on the right side and on the left, and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.*"

Collection for Evangelization of Spain.

It was ordered that a collection be taken up in the several congregations of the Church on the First Sabbath of August next, and that it be devoted for the present year to aid in the evangelization of Spain, instead of being thrown into our own Foreign and Jewish Mission Fund.

Donation to Syrian Mission.

The same amount as in former years was directed to be sent in aid of the Syrian Mission of the American Church, viz., one year's interest of the Bicentenary Fund.

XXX. The following resolutions in reference to the Schemes of the Church were ordered to be recorded, viz. :—

500 Copies of Minutes ordered.

1.—The Clerk is directed to have 500 copies of the Minutes, apart from the Magazine, printed for gratuitous circulation in the Church.

Sermons before Collections.

2. Whereas it is important that the contributions to the various Schemes of the Church be greatly larger than hitherto they have been, Ministers are recommended to bring the claims of each scheme before their respective congregations, in a sermon on the subject, on the day of collection.

Scottish Deputation heard.

XXXI. The Rev. C. K. Toland introduced the Deputation from the Scottish Synod.

Mr. Blair, Ruling Elder, and the Rev. Torrens Boyd successively addressed the court.

Dr. Dick moved and Mr. Mackeown seconded a vote of thanks to the Deputation, which was passed by acclama-

tion. The Moderator, in appropriate terms, conveyed the vote to the Deputies.

Relations with Scottish Synod.

XXXII. The following motion, made by Mr. Chancellor and seconded by Dr. Dick, was adopted by Synod, viz. :—

"The Synod having had its attention called to a printed Minute of the Proceedings of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in Scotland, which is published in the Magazine of that body, by which it appears that that Court permitted one of its members to record his dissent, not from any decision of that Court, but from the statements of one of the Deputies representing this Synod, and of another Minister of this Church addressing, by invitation, that Court, together with reasons most offensively and injuriously reflecting upon the teaching and character of these brethren and of this Synod, which extraordinary Dissent that sister judicatory has not merely recorded but published; and whereas we have the fullest and most assured confidence that these brethren hold no sentiments which, when rightly understood, deserve to be characterized as in "opposition to the Scriptural doctrine of NATIONAL support to the Church of Christ," and "directly opposed to the teaching of the Church's Testimony;" and, even although these brethren had given expression to sentiments deserving to be so characterized, whereas they were not amenable to the Synod in Scotland, and their case should have been referred to the adjudication of this Court, a committee be now appointed to take this grave and unprecedented interference with the rights of this Church, and with the character of its ministers, into consideration, and to report what action should be taken in the premises."

Dr. Houston, Mr. Chancellor, and Mr. Russell, were appointed the Committee in pursuance of this motion—Dr. Houston, *Convener*—to give in their report at next meeting of Synod.

Reports of Presbyteries

XXXIII. Reports of Presbyteries were called for, and submitted as follows, viz. :—

I.—NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of N. Presbytery.

During the year now closed the Northern Presbytery has held five meetings, all characterised as heretofore by the utmost harmony. Peace prevails in our borders, and the ordinances of religion have been administered with accustomed regularity.

State of Religion.

In our congregations we are happy to report an improved attendance on the means of grace, and, as we trust, not without a corresponding measure of influence for good.

Ministerial Support.

Shortly after Synod's last meeting we were favoured with a deputation, sent us by Commission, on the subject of Ministerial Support: and, in carrying out the counsels then tendered us, we deputed certain of our members to visit the various congregations in our bounds, for the purpose of presenting and pressing the teachings of God's Word on this matter. The Presbytery's deputations were cordially welcomed by the people; and the most respectful attention was paid to the services and addresses delivered. In some cases

these visits had been anticipated by spontaneous congregational action. In two of these the yearly stipend has been raised to £100. Generally amongst our people there is evidence of growth in the grace of liberality.

Calls—Mr. Kerr.

In compliance with the request of the United Presbyteries of Edinburgh and Glasgow in October last, Mr. James Kerr, then a Licentiate of this Church, was transmitted to that court, in order that there might be presented to him two calls—one from Wishaw, the other from Greenock.

License—Mr. J. Dick, A.M.

On the 3rd of February Mr. James Dick, A.M., was licensed to preach, and since that time he has been making trial of his gifts throughout the Church with much acceptance.

Drimbolg.

The congregation of Drimbolg is still under the pastoral inspection of Presbytery, and during the year ordinances have been supplied to them in proportion to the means at our disposal.

Students.

The Students under our care are Messrs. Wm. M'Knight, whose curriculum is nearly finished; Wm. Dick, A.B., Geo. Gilmour Warwick, John Lynd, and Alexander M'L. S. Lyons.

JOSEPH HAMILTON, MODERATOR.
WILLIAM TOLAND, CLERK.

II.—SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of S. Presbytery.

The Southern Presbytery report, that during the past year they have held four quarterly meetings. One of these was a visitation of the congregation of Fairview, at which Presbytery expressed satisfaction with the present state and prospects of the congregation.

Stations.

The Missionary Stations of Dublin, Lisdonnan, and Dromore, have received the usual supplies of preaching.

Death of Rev. T. C. Britton.

Presbytery report that it pleased God to remove, by death, their esteemed Brother, the Rev. Thomas Conn Britton, on the 10th of March last. Mr. Britton was Pastor of the congregation of Newry for more than three years, and, until prevented by his last illness, performed all the duties of his office with great diligence, ability, and acceptance. Presbytery would take this public opportunity of expressing its deep sense of the great loss it has sustained by the removal of a brother so amiable and so excellent. Mr. Britton was a close student, a sensible and edifying preacher, a cheerful, manly, and warm-hearted young man, greatly beloved by his co-presbyters, and by all who knew him.

Death of Mr. Joseph Cromie, Student.

Presbytery has also to report the removal, by death, of Mr. Joseph Cromie, one of its most talented and promising students.

Mr. Cromie had, with marked success, finished his Undergraduate and Theological studies, and was prepared for his final examination by Synod when he was removed.

Rev. Samuel Simms. The Rev. Samuel Simms, the senior minister of Presbytery, has, through indisposition, been unable to attend, with his wonted efficiency, to his ministerial duties for some months. We deeply sympathize with our esteemed brother in the afflictions with which he has been visited. Under these dispensations we would desire to hear the Lord's voice saying "Work in your high and holy vocation while it is called to-day, the night cometh in which no man can work."

Ministerial Support. The subject of increased Ministerial Support has received special attention from Presbytery, and has been brought before the people of our respective charges, first, by each minister from his own pulpit, and then by deputation from the Presbytery. The result of these efforts is not yet fully known, but in so far as known the success has been gratifying.

Students. The Students under the inspection of Presbytery are Messrs. Isaac Thompson, William Scott, and William Henry, in various degrees of progress.

THOMAS HART, MODERATOR.
GEORGE LILLIE, CLERK.

III.—EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of E. Presbytery. The Eastern Presbytery report, that they have held six meetings during the past year, in all of which the greatest harmony prevailed.

State of Religion. The ordinances of religion have been regularly dispensed in all their congregations during the year. The vacant congregations have had a larger supply of ordinances than in the preceding year. The Sacrament of our Lord's Supper has been three times dispensed in the congregation of Belfast, once in the congregations of Larne and Killinchy, and twice in each of the other congregations. The attendance on ordinances is satisfactory, and there is reason to believe the people are edified. Days of fasting and thanksgiving are observed, and the collections are punctually taken up for the several schemes of the church.

Ministerial Support. The Commission, carrying out the instructions of Synod, appointed deputations on Ministerial Support to visit the several Presbyteries. This Presbytery was visited by the deputy appointed by Commission, Rev. W. Toland. Having heard his excellent address, Presbytery appointed deputations to visit the several congregations under their care in Ireland. These deputations were generally cordially received, and the

result was good. The Newtownards congregation anticipated the visit of the deputation, and had raised the stipend of their minister to £100 and a manse. The congregation of Ballyclare also made an advance of £10 per annum. Newtownards. Ballyclare.

Presbytery has held several conferences with a view to the adoption of some measures for carrying on evangelistic labours among the ignorant and neglected, in different localities within their bounds. Evangelistic Labours.

Presbytery has under its care Mr. Moody, a student in peculiar circumstances. He attended College without placing himself under the directions of Presbytery. He has, however, certificates of attendance on all the classes required by the curriculum, has attended the Divinity Hall five sessions, and manifests a strong desire for the ministry. Presbytery has examined him on the whole course; and, having regard to all the peculiarities of the case, recommends him to Synod for final examination. They have also under their care the following students—Mr. James Martin, who has completed the undergraduate course, has obtained the degrees of A.B. and A.M., with honours, and attended three sessions at the Divinity Hall; Mr. James Cleeland, who has completed the curriculum, obtained several honours, and the degree of A.B, and who has attended two Sessions at the Divinity Hall; Mr. Joseph Frazer Hurst, who has completed the curriculum, has passed the first half of his examination for a degree in Arts, and has attended three Sessions at the Divinity Hall. These three students are all recommended to Synod for final examination. The following students in Arts are also under Presbytery's care—Messrs. William Mayben, John M'Kee, and Alexander M'Carroll. Students.

ROBERT ALLEN, MODERATOR.
WILLIAM RUSSELL, CLERK.

IV.—WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

The Western Presbytery report, that they have held six meetings since last meeting of Synod. Three of these were for the visitation of the congregations of Bready, Newtownlimavady, and Faughan; and in all of these instances Presbytery had reason to congratulate ministers and people on the state of religion generally amongst them. All seemed harmonious and prosperous in a degree, and there appeared to be some evidences of positive progress. Report of W Presbytery. Visitations.

Presbytery took measures for carrying out the desires of the Commission in respect to endeavours towards obtaining an increased measure of liberality in the matter of Ministerial Support, by arranging an exchange of pulpits and con- Ministerial Support.

gregational meetings to be addressed by the minister of a different congregation, and by requiring the production of new stipend lists. No very marked effect has followed as yet. But, before this, Convoy had, by a spirited effort, raised the stipend of the minister to £100 per annum. Considering all the circumstances of that congregation in the past, this must be regarded as most praiseworthy and exemplary on their part.

Convoy.

Mr. Kennedy visits U.S.A.

At a *pro ne nata* meeting summoned for the 21st of April, Mr. Kennedy asked and obtained leave of absence for three months, in order to visit the United States of America.

Students.

Mr. R. A. M'Farlane, Student of Theology, having attended three sessions at our own Divinity Hall, and obtained his Bachelor's degree with first-class honours from the Queen's University, is recommended to Synod for final examination. Inasmuch as he has taken the classes of a fourth year student in New College, Edinburgh, during the last session, and exhibited highly favourable certificates of his attendance on all these classes, Presbytery further recommend that this be accepted as a session in his course, and that he be not required to attend a fourth session at our own Hall, but be allowed to be taken under trials for license at once.

Mr. Mackeown and Mr. Nevin are nominated to act on the Commission of Synod.

J. W. MACKEOWN, MODERATOR.
R. NEVIN, CLERK.

V.—PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK & NOVA SCOTIA.

Report of N. B. & N. S. Presbytery.

The Reformed Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia report to the supreme judicatory, that, during the past year they have held two meetings. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper has been twice dispensed in all the congregations. Those that labour in word and doctrine have been graciously sustained, and, amid many discouragements, have been enabled to display a banner for the truth.

State of Religion.

Discouragements.

Some of the congregations under Presbytery's care, have, during the year, experienced a considerable diminution by emigration to the neighbouring republic; whilst in others death has more than counterbalanced the accessions to the membership of the Church.

Illness of Rev. W. Sommerville

Presbytery deeply regret that at their late meeting they were deprived of the presence and counsels of their venerable father, Rev. Wm. Sommerville, who has been laid aside by a severe attack of illness, from which, however, there is some hope of his recovery.

Your Missionaries in the present state of public sentiment cannot hope for a speedy enlargement of the Church in these Provinces. They would not forget, however, that with the Redeemer is the residue of the Spirit. They would, therefore, feel encouraged to labour on, in the faith and hope that the time to favour Zion will come, even the set time, when the waste places of Zion will be repaired. Reason for Hope.

R. M. SOMMERVILLE, MODERATOR.
J. R. LAWSON, CLERK.

St. John, 11th May, 1869.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VIII.

Friday, 2d July, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer.

XXXIV.—In reference to the death of the Rev. T. C. Britton, mentioned in the Report of the Southern Presbytery, Synod ordered the following minute to be inserted among the records, viz. :— Death of Rev. T. C. Britton.

"Synod are again solemnly reminded of the brevity and uncertainty of human life in the recent dispensation of Providence by which their esteemed and beloved young brother, the Rev. Thomas Conn Britton, pastor of the R. P. Congregation of Newry, has been called away from his labours on earth; which event occurred on the 10th of March last, in the 33rd year of his age, and the 4th of his ministry.

"During his brief pastorate, Mr. Britton discharged the duties of the holy ministry so as to endear him to the hearts and gain the esteem of his own flock; and gratifying success seemed to fall on his labours among them. As a co-presbyter and fellow-labourer, he was much respected and loved by his brethren in the ministry. As a private friend, his cheerful, honest, and independent Christian bearing, rendered him a special favourite, not only in his own church, but also among the ministers and members of other evangelical denominations. Synod, while acquiescing in this sovereign allotment of the great Head of the Church, would be found reverently looking to Him as the gracious dispenser of His own ascension gifts; and would hear His voice stimulating surviving labourers to greater abounding in His honourable and all-honouring work. 'Behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me.' In fine, Synod would give expression to their cordial sympathy with the bereaved relatives and flock of their departed brother."

XXXV. Synod desired to put on record a tribute to the memory of Mr. David Henry, a member of Rathfriland congregation, who had, in 1861, and before he acceded to the membership of the Church, made the munificent donation of £1000 to the Mission funds, and whose demise took place on the 28th of October last. Death of Mr D. Henry.

Synod felt special gratification in being informed by those best acquainted with the facts of the case that, in reflecting afterwards on what he had thus done for the Missions of the Church, he seemed thankful that God had put it into his heart to do so, and often expressed a hope that it would be the means of doing good. He appeared very sensible that all he had was from God, and that it was his duty, while yet alive, to honour the Lord with his substance. He was much attached to the Covenanting Church, and took a lively interest in her prosperity. He was a lover of good men; and died at a good old age, rejoicing in his Saviour.

Rev. S. Simms.

XXXVI. With respect to the case of the Rev. S. Simms, referred to in the Report of the Southern Presbytery, it was resolved—

"That, in testimony of the estimation in which this Synod holds Mr. Simms, and as an expression of sympathy with him, we agree to assist Presbytery in supplying his pulpit for a time, in the hope that his health may be recruited by rest, and ultimately restored."

Mr. R. A. M'Farlane, B.A.

XXXVII. In the matter of Mr. R. A. M'Farlane, B.A., brought up by the Report of the Western Presbytery, Synod agreed to accept his session in Edinburgh and dispense with his attendance for another session at our own Theological Hall.

Records of Presbyteries

XXXVIII. The Committee on the Records of Presbyteries reported—

"That they have examined the Records, and found the books correctly kept, and nothing contrary to the Church's testimony in them.

"WILLIAM RUSSELL, *Convener*."

Commission of Synod appointed.

XXXIX. The Commission of Synod was appointed, consisting of the following members—

THE MODERATOR,

Rev. J. Dick, D.D.,	Rev. G. Douglas,
,, J. Brown,	,, Thomas Houston, D.D.
,, J. Newell, D.D.,	,, J. A. Chancellor,
,, W. Russell,	Mr. S. Clugston,
,, J. W. Mackeown,	,, Thomas Galway,
,, R. Nevin, *Clerk*,	,, James Reynolds,
,, A. Savage,	,, Joseph Clarke.

Preachers' appointments.

XL. The Committee on Preachers' Appointments reported the following scale till the end of November, which was adopted, viz. :—

	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.
Mr. Fulton	N. & W.	N.	S.	S.	E.
Mr. James Dick, A.M.	..	S.	E.	E.	N.

XLI. Mr. Samuel Aikin and Mr. James Reynolds were appointed Auditors of the various Accounts of the Church's Funds. Auditors appointed.

XLII. Resolutions on the subject of National Education were submitted by the Committee to which it had been entrusted. As these were somewhat lengthy, it was ordered that fifty copies should be printed for the the consideration of members of Synod till next meeting. National Education.

XLIII. The Committee on State Church Resolutions had not a report in a matured condition for presentation to the Court, one member of the Committee being out of the country. In these circumstances Synod, while giving all credit for the attention which they had bestowed on the subject, discontinued the Committee. State Church Resolutions.

At half-past three o'clock, P.M., the Rev. W. Russell, at the request of the Moderator engaged in prayer, and adjourned the Synod till the third Monday of June, 1870. Final Adjournment.

ATTESTED BY

ROBERT NEVIN,

Synod Clerk.

APPENDIX.

Synodical Officers.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, &c.

Moderator.

Rev. THOMAS DICK, Bailliesmill, Lisburn.

Clerk.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

Professors.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY—Rev. JAMES DICK, D.D., Ballymena.

ECCLES. HIST., PAST. THEOL., AND CRITICISM—
Rev. THOMAS HOUSTON, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Trustees of Synod's Funds.

Rev. J. A. CHANCELLOR, *Convener*.

Dr. Hurst.	Mr. Samuel Clugston.
Mr. James Meharg.	Mr. Joseph Clarke.

General Treasurer.

Mr. Samuel Clugston, Antrim.

Treasurer of Aged Ministers' Fund.

Rev. R. Nevin.

Auditors.

Mr. Samuel Aikin.	Mr. James Reynolds.

Administrators of Education Fund.

Dr. Houston, *Convener*.	Rev. W. Toland.
Rev. A. Savage.	Rev. R. Nevin.

Secretaries of the Schemes of the Church.

HOME MISSION—Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast.

COLONIAL MISSION—Rev. John Newell, D.D., 137, Rydal Mount, Cheetham, Manchester.

IRISH MISSION—Rev. William Russell, Ballyclare.

FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

THEOLOGICAL HALL—Rev. R. Nevin, Londonderry.

N.B.—These Secretaries act also as Treasurers for their respective schemes.

The Commission of Synod.

THE MODERATOR.

Commission.

Rev. J. Dick, D.D.	Rev. W. Russell.
,, J. Brown.	,, J. W. Mackeown.
,, A. Savage.	,, R. Nevin, *Clerk*.
,, G. Douglas.	Mr. S. Clugston.
,, T. Houston, D.D.	,, Thomas Galway.
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, James Reynolds.
,, J. Newell, D.D.	,, Joseph Clarke.

Temperance Association.

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

President—Rev. J. Dick, D.D. | Secretary—Rev. J. A. Chancellor.

Committees.

COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF THEOLOGICAL HALL.

The Moderator.
Rev. W. Russell.
,, J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. W. Toland.
,, G. Douglas.
,, R. Nevin, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Moderator and Clerk of Synod.

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Rev. J. Dick, D.D. | Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. W. Russell, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CHURCH'S FUNDS.

Rev. J. Dick, D.D. | Rev. J. Kennedy.
Rev. W. Toland, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE ON CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING AND FASTING.

Rev. A. Savage, *Convener.* | Rev. G. Douglas.

COMMITTEE ON CODE OF DISCIPLINE.

Dr. Houston, *Convener.*
Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Dr. Dick.
Rev. W. Russell.

COMMITTE ON RELATIONS WITH SCOTTISH SYNOD.

Dr. Houston. | Rev. W. Russell.
Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.*

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Synodical Appointments.

The Theological Hall opens in Belfast on Wednesday, 10th Nov., 1869.

The Commission meets in Belfast on Tuesday, 9th November, 1869, and Tuesday, 8th March, 1870.

Day of Public Thanksgiving.....Thursday, 25th November, 1869.

Day of Public Fasting .....Thursday, 27th January, 1870.

Annual Meeting of Synod, in Belfast, Monday, 20th, June, 1869, at 7 o'clock, P.M.

MEETINGS OF PESBYTERIES.

Times of Presbyteries Meeting.

NORTHERN—As occasion requires.

SOUTHERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.

EASTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

WESTERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA—As occasion requires.

Statistical and Financial Statement of Ministerial Support and Home Mission Scheme.

	Congregations.	Ministers.	Members.	Stipend.	Manse or Travelling Expenses.	Collected, 1869.	Collected, 1868.	Total, 1869	Total, 1868	Supplement. 1869.	Supplement. 1868.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
SELF-SUPPORTING.	Bailliesmill	T. Dick	134	85 0 0	....	9 0 0	12 0 0	94 0 0	92 0 0	....	....
	Ballenon	A. Savage	255	75 0 0	....	3 0 0	2 5 3	78 0 0	77 5 3	....	....
	Ballyclabber	J. D. Houston	150	80 0 0	Manse.	2 8 0	2 10 0	82 8 0	82 10 0	....	....
	Ballylaggan	J. Hart	230	90 0 0	....	3 4 6	3 5 0	93 4 6	83 5 0	....	....
	Belfast	J. A. Chancellor	255	205 0 0	Manse.	35 0 0	40 0 0	240 0 0	245 0 0	....	....
	Bready and Mulvin	C. K. Toland	210	100 0 0	4 0 0	9 8 10	5 13 9	113 8 10	109 13 9	....	....
	Convoy and Donegal	J. W. Mackeown	173	100 0 0	3 0 0	5 10 0	7 0 0	108 10 0	90 0 0	....	....
	Creivagh	G. Douglas	180	90 0 0	....	6 4 0	3 10 0	96 4 0	89 10 10	....	....
	Dervock and Ballymoney	J. Brown	340	100 0 0	....	5 0 0	4 9 0	105 0 0	104 9 0	....	....
	Drimbolg	J. Smyth	250	70 0 0	....	7 0 0	8 0 0	77 0 0	78 0 0	....	....
	Faughan	J. P. Sweeney	195	70 0 0	....	4 7 0	2 14 2	74 7 0	72 14 2	....	....
	Kellswater	J. Dick	235	100 0 0	....	12 0 0	11 0 0	112 0 0	93 0 0	....	....
	Killinchy	.....	38	50 0 0	....	3 0 0	3 0 0	53 0 0	41 13 6	....	....
	Kilraughts	W. Toland	160	100 0 0	..	5 10 6	4 1 5	105 10 6	86 1 5	....	....
	Knockbracken	T. Houston	250	100 0 0	Manse.	16 0 0	16 0 0	116 0 0	116 0 0	....	....
	Londonderry	R. Nevin	100	140 0 0	Manse.	7 0 0	7 0 0	147 0 0	147 0 0	....	....
	Loughbrickland	S. Simms	134	80 0 0	.. .	2 4 3	2 13 9	82 4 3	82 13 9	....	....
	Manchester	J. Newell	50	212 16 8	5 0 0	1 12 2	2 6 8	219 8 10	215 0 0	....	8 2 0
	Newry	.....	80	80 0 0	Manse.	1 14 0	1 14 8	81 14 0	81 14 8	....	....
	Newtownards	R. Allen	87	100 0 0	Manse.	5 5 0	4 0 11	105 5 0	94 0 11	....	....
	Newtownlimavady	J. Kennedy	244	75 0 0	....	6 0 0	6 0 0	81 0 0	81 0 0	....	....
	Rathfriland	T. Hart	250	75 0 0	....	4 11 0	3 9 2½	79 11 0	78 9 2½	....	....
	Ringrash	.....	40	17 0 0	....	1 0 6½	0 16 3	18 0 6½	17 16 3	....	....
AID-RECEIVING.	Ballyclare	W. Russell	94	50 0 0	....	10 6 0	5 0 2	60 6 0	45 0 2	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Ballylane	H. M'Fadden	112	50 0 0	....	2 14 0	2 0 0	52 14 0	52 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
	Cloughmills	..	12	....	...	0 15 0	0 9 0	...	....	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Donegal	J. W. Mackeown	13	10 0 0	....	2 0 0	4 0 0	12 0 0	14 0 0	6 5 0	6 5 0
	Dromore	.....	28	15 0 0	....	1 6 6	1 1 0	16 6 6	16 1 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Dublin	.....	18	21 0 0	....	0 11 0	0 12 0	21 11 0	21 12 0	10 0 0	7 0 0
	Fairview	G. Lillie	45	50 0 0	....	2 14 0	2 7 6	52 14 0	52 7 6	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Garvagh	J. Hamilton	100	50 0 0	....	3 0 0	3 0 0	53 0 0	58 0 0	25 0 0	16 10 0
	Grange	W. S. Ferguson	63	40 0 0	....	3 14 0	2 17 0	43 14 0	42 17 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Larne	.....	23	20 0 0	....	1 4 6	1 2 8	21 4 6	21 2 8	10 0 0	10 0 0
	Lisdonnan	.....	9	6 0 0	....	0 7 2	..	6 7 2	9 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
	Magherafelt	.....	30	10 10 0	....	2 0 0	2 0 0	12 10 0	12 10 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
	Mulvin	C. K. Toland	38	15 0 0	....	4 14 0	2 9 6	19 14 0	17 9 6	5 0 0	5 0 0

Home Mission Account for Year ending 30th June, 1869.

Dr.			
By Balance, July 1st, 1868 ..	£90	17	4½
" Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	24	7	6
" Bailliesmill ..	4	0	0
" " Juvenile Missionary Society ..	5	0	0
" Ballenon ..	3	0	0
" Ballyclabber ..	2	8	0
" Ballyclare ..	10	6	0
" Ballylaggan ..	3	4	6
" Ballylane ..	2	14	0
" Belfast ..	5	0	0
" " Juvenile Missionary Society ..	30	0	0
" Bready ..	4	14	10
" Cloughmills ..	0	15	0
" Convoy ..	3	10	0
" Crivagh ..	4	4	0
" Thomas Henry's Thank-offering ..	2	0	0
" Dervock and Ballymoney ..	5	0	0
" Donegal ..	2	0	0
" Drimbolg ..	7	0	0
" Dromore ..	1	6	6
" Dublin ..	0	11	0
" Fairview ..	2	14	0
" Faughan ..	4	7	0
" Garvagh ..	3	0	0
" Grange ..	3	14	0
" Kellswater ..	11	5	0
" " Antrim Society Box ..	0	8	0
" " Ballymena Society Box ..	0	7	0
" Killinchy ..	3	0	0
" Kilraughts ..	4	10	6
" " A Member's Donation ..	1	0	0
" Knockbracken ..	4	12	11
" " Juvenile Missionary Society ..	11	7	1
" Larne ..	1	4	6
" Lisdonnan ..	0	7	2
" Londonderry ..	7	0	0
" Loughbrickland ..	2	4	3
" Magherafelt ..	2	0	0
" Manchester ..	1	12	2
" Mulvin ..	1	9	6
" " Aldoghle Society ..	1	4	6
" " Miss Adam's Donation ..	2	0	0
" Newry ..	1	14	0
" Newtownards ..	5	5	0
" Newtownlimavady ..	6	0	0
" Rathfriland ..	4	11	0
" Ringrash ..	1	0	6½
" Barnesville ..	2	0	0
" Cornwallis ..	2	5	6½
" St. John ..	3	10	0
" Interest on £25 invested ..	1	5	0
" Interest on various Deposits	1	3	11
	£310	1	3½

Cr.			
To Ballyclare ..	£25	0	0
" Ballylane ..	20	0	0
" Cloughmills ..	5	0	0
" Donegal ..	6	5	0
" Dromore ..	5	0	0
" Dublin ..	10	0	0
" Fairview ..	25	0	0
" Garvagh ..	25	0	0
" Grange ..	25	0	0
" Larne ..	10	0	0
" Lisdonnan ..	6	0	0
" Magherafelt ..	10	0	0
" Mulvin ..	5	0	0
" Report in Covenanter ..	1	10	0
" Printing Circulars, 1866 ..	0	4	0
" Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
" Expenses of Commission ..	3	13	3
" 2000 Addresses and Postage	2	2	3
" Expenses of Deputations ..	2	3	0
" Secretary's Expenses ..	0	18	9
" Balance on hand, 30th June, 1869 ..	121	5	0½
	£310	1	3½

Colonial Mission Account for Year ending June 30, 1869.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Balance as per Report for year 1868	£57	14	11½	By Australian Mission Fund	£38	18	8
" Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation (half-year's)	24	7	6	" Christian Work and other Publications	1	14	0
Congregational Collections, viz:				" Mr. Moore's Life Policy	6	2	6
To Bailiesmill	2	0	0	" Printing Report in Covenanter	1	10	0
Do. Juvenile Missionary Society	3	0	0	" Rev. J. R. Lawson	30	0	0
" Ballenon	2	10	4½	" " Robert Stewart	30	0	0
" Ballybay	2	10	0	" " William Somerville	10	0	0
" Ballyclare	2	18	0	" " A. M'L. Stavely	10	0	0
" Ballylaggan	3	7	6	" Expenses of Commission	5	3	0
" Ballylane	2	1	6	" Clerk of do. ('68 and '69)	2	0	0
" Barnesville, N.B. (Octr. '68)	2	0	0	" Working Expenses	1	0	0
" Belfast	6	2	8	" Rev. A. M. Moore	20	0	0
" " additional	13	17	4	" " W. Somerville (additional)	10	0	0
" Bready	3	0	0	" Balance	40	13	11
" Coleraine	3	1	0				
" Convoy	3	10	0				
" Cornwallis (Jan. '69)	1	17	0				
" Dervock & Ballymoney	4	5	0				
" Donegal (£2 for 68' additional)	4	0	0				
" Drimbolg	3	3	0				
" Dromore	1	0	0				
" Dublin	0	11	3				
" Fairview	1	0	0				
Member of Creevagh	1	0	0				
" Faughan	3	7	0				
" Garvagh	1	0	6				
" Grange	1	5	0				
" Kellswater	9	0	0				
" Killinchy	1	5	0				
" Kilraughts	5	7	6				
" Knockbracken	12	0	0				
" Larne	1	0	6				
" Lisdonnan	0	7	6				
" Londonderry	8	0	0				
" Loughbrickland	2	5	8				
" Magherafelt	....						
" Manchester Missionary Association	1	12	2				
" Mulvin	0	17	6				
" Newtownards	2	18	4				
" Newtownlimavady	4	4	0				
" Rathfriland	8	14	4				
	£207	2	1		£207	2	1

Hall and Synod Fund in Account with the Secretary, 1868-9.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Balance from last year	£2	0	4	By Salaries and Travelling Expenses of Professors	£67	10	0
To Congregational Collections, viz.:—				" Travelling Expenses of Commission and Hall Committee	9	11	8
Bailliesmill	2	0	0	" Books for Library	4	14	6
Ballenon	2	1	0	" Printing Hall Report in Minutes of Synod	1	10	0
Ballybay	3	7	4	" 150 Copies of Minutes extra	1	10	0
Ballyclare	2	3	0	" Circulars, Postages, &c.	1	1	11
Ballylaggan	2	13	6	" Clerk of Synod	10	0	0
Ballylane	1	5	6	" Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
Barnesville, N.B.	2	0	0	" Travelling Expenses of Deputation to Scotland	2	11	2
Belfast	5	0	0	" By Balance	3	1	9
Bready	3	12	5				
Cloughmills	0	12	6				
Coleraine	2	7	0				
Convoy	2	12	0				
Cornwallis, N.S.	1	6	0				
Dervock & Ballymoney	4	12	0				
Donegal	1	10	0				
Drimbolg	1	10	0				
Dromore	0	17	0				
Dublin	0	10	0				
Fairview	0	16	0				
Faughan	2	17	0				
Garvagh	1	2	6				
Grange	1	5	0				
Horton, N.S.	....						
Kellswater	6	0	0				
Killinchy	1	10	0				
Kilraughts	4	7	1				
Knockbracken	7	0	0				
Larne	1	3	0				
Lisdonnan	0	15	7				
Londonderry	6	0	0				
Loughbrickland	2	10	2				
Magherafelt	0	15	0				
Manchester—Miss. Association	1	12	2				
Mulvin	0	18	1				
Newry	1	11	0				
Newtownards	2	12	2				
Newtownlimavady	2	9	0				
Rathfriland	3	11	0				
Ringrash	0	13	2				
St. John, N.B.	3	10	0				
Wilmot, N.S.	....						
To Students' Fees to Library	3	0	0				
To Interest on Mr. R. Morrow's Legacy	2	13	6				
To Miss Adams, Aldohill, Donation	2	0	0				
	£102	11	0		£102	11	0

Irish Mission in Account with Secretary from 30th June, 1868, till 30th June, 1869.

Balance of last year's Account		£157	19	0½	By Mr. M'Tighe's Salary to end of February, and continuance by order of Commission for about 2 Months after to his widow	£42 18 11½
Last year's Collections received since closing the balance Sheet :—					By Printing Reports	1 10 0
Bailliesmill	..	4	0	0	" Clerk of Commission	1 0 0
Ballymoney and Dervock	..	3	5	0	" Mr. Hopkins	2 0 0
Ballybay or Creevagh	..	2	10	0	" Working Mission	1 0 0
Cloughmills	..	0	11	0	" Balance	153 15 11½
Collections for the present year :—						
Ballyclare	..	2	8	3		
Ballylaggan	..	3	10	0		
Belfast	..	3	11	0		
Ballyclabber	..	3	0	0		
Convoy	..	1	7	0		
Fairview	..	0	17	9½		
Garvagh	..	1	0	0		
Kilraughts	..	4	1	0		
Knockbracken	..	5	0	0		
Rathfriland	..	3	1	6		
Bailliesmill	..	2	0	0		
Grange	..	0	10	0		
Larne	..	1	0	0		
Interest on Deposits	..	2	13	4		
		£202	4	11		£202 4 11

Account of Foreign and Jewish Mission—1869.

Balance on hand at close of last year	£60	7	1½
RECEIPTS.			
Miss Cathcart, Ballylaggan Congregation	0	5	0
Mr. Thomas Henry, Elder, Monaghan, Thank-offering	2	0	0
Ballyclare Fellowship Meeting, Ballyclare Congregation ..	0	10	0
Bruslee Society Do.	0	6	4
Master John Cromie, Loughbrickland Congregation	0	13	9
Matthew vi. 3	0	5	0
Miss Mary Cloughley, Scarva, Loughbrickland Congregation ..	0	11	0
Larne Congregation (Collection)	0	17	0
Knockbracken Congregation, Mr. Hugh Reid	0	5	0
Mrs. Chancellor, Ballymeglaff	0	2	0
Member of Dervock and Ballymoney Congregation—2 Cor. vi. 16	1	0	0
Mr. Samuel Moggie, Do. ..	0	2	6
Garvagh Congregation—By Rev. Joseph Hamilton	1	0	0
Grange Congregation—By Rev. W. S. Ferguson	1	1	0
Faughan Congregation (Collection)	3	7	6
	£72	13	2½
DISBURSEMENTS.			
For Printing Report in Minutes of Synods	£1	10	0
Printing Circulars, Postage, &c.	0	9	8
	£1	19	8
Balance on hand,	£70	13	6½
	£72	13	2½

Knockbracken, 30th June, 1869.

General Financial Statement.

Mr. Henry's Donation	£1000	0	0	Invested with Derry Bridge Commissioners	£1000	0	0
Education Fund	521	17	9	Invested with Derry Bridge Commissioners	453	5	6
				Lodged in Bank.....	68	12	3
Bicentenary Fund	483	5	6	Invested with Derry Bridge Commissioners	479	5	6
				Lodged in Bank	4	0	0
Australian Mission Fund ..	196	3	2	Invested with Derry Bridge Commissioners	67	9	0
				Lodged in Bank.....	128	14	2
	£2201	6	5		£2201	6	5
Total Church Funds	2201	6	5	Invested with Derry Bridge Commissioners	2000	0	0
				Lodged in Bank.....	201	6	5
	£2201	6	5		£2201	6	5

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING AT SYNOD OF 1869.

In Bank at Synod of 1868 ..	£147	1	3	Paid Grant for Bursaries and Elocution Class ..	£14	0	0
Received Balance due by Colonial Mission to Australian Mission Fund, per Dr. Newell	38	18	8	" " Home Mission....	24	7	6
				" " Colonial Mission..	24	7	6
				" " Syrian Mission (American).....	24	0	0
Received Interest on Derry Loan.....	97	10	0	Balance in hands.....	200	6	5
Received Interest on Bank Deposits	3	11	7				
	£287	1	5		£287	1	5

Antrim, June 30, 1869. SAMUEL CLUGSTON, *Treasurer.*

AGED MINISTERS' FUND.—Capital, £2,000.

To Balance at last statement	£140	10	10			
To Interest on Investment in Derry Bridge	48	15	0			
To Interest on Second Thousand for 1868	50	0	0			
To Bank Interest on Deposits	2	8	4			
				£241	14	2
By Rev. James A. Smyth.....	30	0	0			
By Travelling and other expenses	2	3	7			
				32	3	7
To Balance in Bank at date.....				209	10	7

Londonderry, 12th July, 1869. R. NEVIN, *Treasurer.*

PUBLICATION FUND.

To Balance on hand at last Statement £34	16	11½				
" Received for Publications 22	6	4				
			£57	3	3½	
By Binding Testimonies, Printing "Social Evils" and "Temperance Reports," and Postages			11	9	8	
To Balance on hand to new Account.....			45	13	7½	

Londonderry, 12th July, 1869. R. NEVIN.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Moderator and remanent members of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of North America, to meet in Newburgh, on Wednesday, 26th May, 1869.

DEAR BRETHREN—It is with the utmost gratification that, by instructions from our Synod, a communication is now addressed to you. It was by a simple oversight that you had not a letter from us at your last meeting, and that we thus deprived ourselves of the pleasure and profit of a reply from you.

The presence of two brethren from the United States at our meeting in Londonderry last year, was a valued pledge that the brotherly covenant between you and us remains unbroken, and was a source of great gratification to all here. We listened to the address of one of them with much interest. You, we trust, will have among you a very highly esteemed brother from this country, the Rev. James Kennedy, who will be able, *viva voce*, to communicate much more information respecting our state and prospects, in a way, too, much more satisfactory, than could be expected from a brief epistle.

Many here watch with great interest your progress and operations. Your work amongst the freedmen of the South has our largest sympathy. We look for communications from your Syrian Missionaries with earnest desire, and with the prayer that their self-denied and faithful labours may be crowned by the blessing of the Church's Head, with a goodly measure of success. We are most anxious to occupy some field of foreign missionary labour for ourselves, either in conjunction with them or elsewhere, as soon as possible, and we hope to be in a position to do so in a year or two more. The movement on your side of the Atlantic for national reform and the amendment of the general and State constitutions, so as to bring them into conformity with the claims of the Christian religion, of God, his law, and the reigning Mediator, is regarded by us as one of the most momentous concern. While not sanguine of immediate results, where mere worldly politicians have to be dealt with, remembering the scriptural injunction, Trust not in princes nor man's son, we rest satisfied that the truth and cause of a covenanted testimony shall not suffer at your hands; nor should we despair of the most glorious results when it pleases God to pour out His Spirit from on high. In due time, doubtless, the seed sown by those who go weeping to their work, shall spring up and shake with prosperous fruit like the trees on Lebanon. This is our encouragement to pursue the path of duty amid all difficulties and discouragements from men, with unflinching fidelity. In due season we shall reap if we faint not.

In the aspects of public events in these countries at present, civil, social, even religious, there is little to furnish ground of hope or rejoicing to the friends and advocates of a covenanted testimony. Changes are taking place in political opinion, and in consequent political action, with what seems to us amazing rapidity; and still greater appear to be looming in the distance. But regard to scriptural principle is as much ignored as ever, if not more so. The measure for disestablishing and disendowing the church established by law in Ireland, and terminating other religious endowments at the same time, is now as nearly certain to become law ere long, as anything future can well be. Opinion is divided as to what the consequences must be, but we augur good. The English establishment is in a most deplorable state. Ritualism has taken firm hold of a large section of it, is bold and rampant, advancing onward with rapid strides. Romish doctrine is being preached from an ever-increasing number of pulpits, and Romish practices are being introduced by an ever growing number of ministers, many of whom repudiate with the utmost scorn, the very name of Protestant; while both Church and State, as now constituted, seem perfectly paralyzed or indifferent, and wholly destitute of power or inclination to arrest the flowing tide. Many intelligent, earnest and thoughtful Christians have come to the conclusion that a measure for disestablishment and disendowment there is greatly more needed, in the interests of pure and undefiled religion, than in Ireland, and would be a consummation devoutly to be wished. This seems to them the most likely means, under God, of preventing the realization of the boastful anticipations of clever and intriguing emissaries of the Man of Sin, to the effect that they will soon have Protestant England completely won over to Rome. Truth should have a fair field, and requires no favor, at least from those who are disposed to treat truth and error as on an equal footing. In Ireland the efforts of the astute, ultramontane faction are directed especially toward obtaining more of government countenance and support for their educational schemes, a line of policy in which they have succeeded only too well already, and in which they require to be sedulously watched. On the whole, we see greater reason than ever for abiding by the position taken up by our church all along hitherto, of refusing to be mixed up in any way with systems, whether civil or ecclesiastical, that are essentially anti-Christian in character and operation, systems solemnly abjured in the covenants of our fathers—and this all the more that some who should know better appear to have come to the deliberate conclusion that the reasons for dissent and separation no longer exist. In things pertaining to man there have been no doubt great progress and improvement, but in things pertaining to God the progress has not been, in a political point of view, advancing, but actually retrograde.

As respects our own community, matters are flowing on much in the same channels as in former years. One beloved young brother, the Rev. T. C. Britton, of Newry, has been removed from among us by death within the current year, when he might be said to be only entering on a ministerial life that promised to be one of great usefulness. Such mysterious dispensations in Providence are fraught with solemn lessons to survivors. We desire to say, The will of the Lord be done; and our consolation is found in the reflection, that what is felt by us as a great loss, is to the departed unspeakable gain. When breaches are thus made in the ranks, the great Captain of our salvation can fill them up again.' Our Theological Seminary prospers. Last session we had fifteen students in attendance, the largest number we have had yet in any year since it was first opened. Our people, moreover, continue to exhibit undiminished attachment to the principles of our covenanted testimony. The recent general election of members of Parliament tested this in many instances, and we have not had reason to be ashamed of the result. Thus we have many grounds for thanking God and taking courage. The principles for which our martyred fathers bled and died, even the most distinctive and peculiar, are not less precious and important than they ever were. The time has not yet come for the witnesses on their behalf to lay aside their sackcloth, and emerge from their comparative obscurity. We must wait God's time for that. But we rest in the assured expectation that, when that time comes, these principles, however they may be generally despised or repudiated now, shall be triumphant in recognition, application and operation throughout all the kingdoms of the earth, north, south, east, and west. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

And now, dear brethren, wishing you grace, mercy and peace from God our father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, we subscribe ourscribe ourselves for the present, Yours in the bonds of a covenanted fraternity,

C. K. TOLAND, *Moderator.*
R. NEVIN, *Clerk.*

LONDONDERRY, 12th May, 1869.

NEWBURG, N. Y. June 2nd, 1869.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

DEAR BRETHREN—Your very cordial letter was received by us at this meeting of Synod, and read with the greatest satisfaction and interest. Our relations become increasingly closer and more pleasant each returning year. The frequent visits of our ministers to you, and the presence at least occasionally of one of your number in our own midst, make us feel the more that we are indeed one church.

Our highly esteemed brother, Rev. James Kennedy, is present with us, as you expected, and we have had the advantage of his counsels, especially in the establishment of what has been for some time before the church, a Disabled Ministers Fund, designed for the benefit both of aged ministers and the families of deceased ministers. He has given us also much interesting information with respect to "your state and prospects." We have felt while listening to his able address, how cold and unsatisfactory is the written page in comparison with the living voice.

The renovation of the covenant is still before the church, and we trust this great work will not long be delayed. What we have heard from our esteemed brother from your side, of the happy effects of this act of covenanting upon the church in Ireland, in staying the tide of defection and promoting harmony and efficiency, makes us the more desirous to share the same blessings ourselves.

Our work in the Syrian Mission is going on with still increasing activity. It is sustained at an annual expense of about 10,000 dollars. The recent completion of the mission building in Latakiyeh, inaugurates a new era in the history of this great enterprise. It gives the whole work a character of permanency, such as it never before had. The natives seem to have always thought that at any time we might leave the field. Now they see that we are determined to remain with them. Beside the missionaries whose names are familiar to you, and whose work lies so near your hearts, there are employed in the work also twelve or fourteen native helpers, most of them earnest Christians. We have made some converts, and a number of persons who desire to make profession of their faith in Christ, are in process of training. We have resolved at this meeting, to occupy Killis, a town lying about forty miles south of Aleppo. Our work is largely in the way of teaching children, and in this we are abundantly prospered. We have instructed our Board of Foreign Missions to correspond with you on the subject of co-operation with you, and if possible, present a plan for such co-operation to the next meeting of Synod.

Our work among the Freedmen in Washington has been continued during the past year as usual. Rev. J. M. Johnston is laboring in that mission, with four female teachers. About one hundred and fifty colored children are taught in the schools through the week, and nearly the same number on the Sabbath. A great deal of work is also done by the Superintendent, in ministering to both the physical and spiritual necessity of a large number of persons who would else be left entirely destitute, no man caring for their souls.

We are still educating a number of colored persons in Northwood, Ohio. We expect that next winter one of these will enter our Theological Seminary.

There are present at this meeting of Synod 64 ministers and 45

ruling elders. The number of our ministers in all, including the missionaries in Syria, is 83. Our congregations, about 90 in all, extend, on a line drawn east and west, nearly 2,000 miles. Our entire membership is not far from 10,000, and the total of our contributions at least 160,000 dollars—a very gratifying increase. The amount has nearly doubled within ten years.

We are prosecuting the work of National Reform with increased assiduity and probability, at least, of success. A number of our ministers left their pulpits for a time, at the call of the church, to engage in this work. One agent has been employed constantly for eighteen months. The interest of the public has been aroused as it never was before. Not a few from other churches are coming to the help of the Lord against the mighty. We trust we shall not disappoint your expectation, when you say, "we rest satisfied that the truth and cause of a covenanted testimony shall not suffer at you hands." We look not for immediate success, but "in due time we shall reap if we faint not."

We have to lament the increasing Sabbath desecration that prevails so extensively in this country. The attempt is made on every hand, especially by our immense German population, and unscrupulous politicians who court their favour, to convert God's holy day into a French or German holiday.

We take great interest in the public movements of your country. We especially rejoice in the disestablishment and disendowment of the church in Ireland, which we suppose may now be regarded as a certainty. This is a removal of one of the many evils that stand in your way, and with which we have not to conflict. Our province seems rather to build up, yours to pull down and destroy.

With us as with you, ritualism is largely on the increase, and this not solely in the Episcopal Church. There is exhibited in many quarters a desire at least of return to a religion of forms and ceremonies. Popery is advancing with rapid strides; some of its leading men declare publicly, that they expect to be the ruling power in the land, by the beginning of another century. With their wonted subtlety, they are seeking to control our schools and seminaries of learning, and are exceedingly active and untiring in their efforts among the colored people of the South. We will not allow ourselves, however, for one moment, to think that their unhallowed efforts shall be crowned with success. God will not abandon this fair land, fearfully though we have provoked His wrath.

We sympathize with you in the bereavement you have experienced in the death of one of your most promising young ministers. The Lord has been very gracious to us in this respect. Since the death of the lamented Prof. Willson, now nearly three years, no breach has been made among our ministers.

We passed through the same season of trial to the fidelity of our people that you did, within the current year—a fiercely contested

election. Our people stood firm, and were content to wait for God's salvation. "He that believeth shall not make haste." While General Grant is very far short of what we could desire, at least he has displaced an incumbent of the presidential office who was a living disgrace to his position, and to the whole country, and whose influence was almost entirely on the wrong side. The influence of President Grant is all in behalf of what is known as the 15th amendment to the United States Constitution, which it is probable will be approved by a sufficient number of the States, and which removes almost entirely the political disabilities under which an oppressed race have so long labored.

Every thing serves to confirm our attachment and devotion to the precious truths which as a church we have long held. "We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." We rejoice that though separated from each other by the wide waste of waters, we are so fully one with you. We cannot allow ourselves to doubt that ere long these principles shall be stripped of all their shame and ignominy, and universally acknowledged as excellent.

Yours in gospel bonds,

S. BOWDEN, *Chairman.*